

# STARS AND STRIPES®

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SUNDAY, JUNE 27, 2004



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**STARS AND STRIPES**  
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## News Tracker ... What's new with old news

### States

**Detroit fireworks shootings:** Police arrested one man and were searching for a second suspect after nine people were shot and injured during a fireworks show in downtown Detroit.

Police said the shootings apparently followed an argument, and innocent people were caught in the crossfire. Five victims remained hospitalized Friday, including one who was in critical condition.

Daron T. Caldwell, 32, of Detroit, was charged with assault with intent to murder, use of a firearm in a felony and possession of a firearm by a felon.

Caldwell pleaded innocent at his arraignment Friday.

Police said they think Caldwell was the lone shooter, but they were also seeking 24-year-old Gary Williams.

**Mad cow disease:** Consumers of U.S. beef need not be alarmed after an animal tested positive in a preliminary screening for mad cow disease because it never entered the food chain, agriculture officials say.

The Agriculture Department labeled the result "inconclusive" for the brain-wasting disease, pending further tests. The carcass was being sent to the USDA National Veterinary Laboratory in Ames, Iowa, with results expected in four to seven days.

"No matter how the confirmatory testing comes back, USDA remains confident in the safety of the U.S. beef supply," John Clifford, deputy administrator of USDA veterinary services, said in announcing the finding late Friday. "This animal did not enter the human food chain or feed chain."

**Mars rovers:** NASA's Mars rovers, challenged by tough terrain and age, are still making discoveries, including a new find of a mineral usually formed in water, scientists said Friday.

The Spirit rover found hematite in a rock at the Columbia Hills after a trek across the plains of the Gusev crater region, where it previously had seen geologic evidence of only limited past moisture.

Spirit's twin, Opportunity, found hematite soon after landing on the other side of the planet, leading scientists to believe that area was once drenched in water, and conditions there could have been suitable for life.

**LAPD beating:** A Los Angeles police officer caught on videotape pummeling a suspected car thief with a flashlight said he delivered the blows because another officer warned that the man was carrying a gun, the Los Angeles Times reported Saturday.

John J. Hatfield told investigators that another officer attempting to handcuff 36-year-old Stanley Miller after a car chase Wednesday felt a metal object in Miller's pants, the newspaper said, citing anonymous sources.

Hatfield tried to subdue Miller by kicking him and striking him 11 times with a metal flashlight. The object mistaken for a gun was later revealed to be wire cutters in Miller's right front pants pocket.

Hatfield's account was corroborated by two other officers at the scene, the Times reported.

**Patrols for illegal immigrants:** The Border Patrol launched an unmanned drone Friday that uses thermal and night-vision equipment to help agents spot illegal immigrants trying to cross the desert into the United States.

The stepped-up surveillance is part of a mission that officials hope will stem the tide of illegal immigrants that has made Arizona the busiest illegal entry point along the



**Yee benefit:** James Yee, left, stands with his father, Joseph Yee, at a dinner organized by the East Coast "Justice for James Yee Ad Hoc Committee" held at New York's Chinatown on Friday to raise funds to cover his legal fees. Accused of espionage at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, where he served as a Muslim chaplain, Yee was placed under arrest and imprisoned for 76 days. Eight months later, the military's charges against Yee have been dropped. New York City Council members and dinner attendees demanded the U.S. government begin an immediate inquiry into the handling of the Yee case.

2,000-mile border with Mexico.

The Department of Homeland Security, which is funding the program, also plans to test the drones in Northern states, over the Great Lakes and in Puerto Rico, said Robert Smith, head of the Customs and Border Protection's unmanned aerial drone program.

### War on terrorism

**Jailed CIA contractor:** A federal judge has ordered former CIA contractor David Passaro to remain jailed until his assault trial after prosecutors said witnesses would testify Passaro beat an Afghan detainee so badly he begged to be shot.

Following a detention hearing Friday in North Carolina, U.S. Magistrate Judge William Webb connected a 1990 assault by Passaro when he was a Connecticut police officer and the alleged beating of Abdul Wali in an Afghanistan prison. Webb said the Connecticut case "started a pattern I see repeated here of structuring stories, setting plans."

Passaro faces four counts of assault and assault with a dangerous weapon — a large flashlight, Wali, who was 28, died at a U.S. base in Afghanistan on June 21, 2003.

### World

**Northern Ireland power-sharing:** The prime ministers of Britain and Ireland said

Friday they expect Northern Ireland's divided parties to decide by September whether they want to resume power-sharing.

Tony Blair of Britain and Bertie Ahern of Ireland, speaking jointly after meeting delegations from five Northern Ireland parties, said a new round of Belfast talks in September would determine whether a Catholic-Protestant administration could be revived.

If not, Blair warned, the British territory's would-be lawmakers could lose their posts and salaries.

**Beheaded South Korean:** The body of a South Korean hostage beheaded in Iraq returned to his hometown Saturday, his coffin

draped in the national flag and escorted by a police honor guard in white dress uniforms.

Sobbing mourners watched as the remains were transferred from a South Korean military transport plane to an awaiting hearse. The body was then taken to a local hospital where a memorial altar was set up for the public to pay respects.

Kim Sun-il, a 33-year-old worker at a company supplying the U.S. military, was killed by militants on Tuesday after the South Korean government refused to bow to their demand that it stop its troop deployment there.

**Violence in Kashmir:** Suspected Islamic rebels raided a village Saturday in Indian-controlled Kashmir and shot to death 12 Muslims while they slept, police said, a day before talks between India and Pakistan on easing tensions in the Himalayan region.

A woman and a 3-year-old were among the dead in the village of Surankot, police said, but most of those killed were members of a military-trained local village security force often targeted for helping government forces.

Elsewhere, some 50 men and women were trapped inside a mosque for two hours during a gunfight between security forces and suspected Islamic militants in Litter village, 40 miles south of Srinagar, the summer capital of India's Jammu-Kashmir state.

They were freed after the militants shifted to an adjoining building, a police official said on condition of anonymity. The gunbattle continued.

**Terrorist groups list:** Philippines Foreign Minister Delia Albert said the government will not help Communist rebels get off lists of terrorist groups in the United States and the European Union.

The government will look at other issues raised by the rebels during the past week's peace talks in Norway, including the release of political prisoners and social and economic development projects, "but the issue on the terrorist list is not negotiable," she said Friday.

Communist rebels expressed disappointment Friday with the peace talks with Philippine government envoys in Oslo, but said they remain committed to solving the 35-year conflict.

Stories and photos from The Associated Press

# Troops trade war faces for poker faces

Card games give servicemembers chance to relax, talk trash downrange

BY JESSICA INIGO

Stars and Stripes

**CAMP VICTORY NORTH, Iraq** — Five sets of cold, blank eyes stare out of deadpan faces prepared to give a Baghdad beat-down.

These guys are aggressive. They're ready for war. Nothing would make them feel better than some rolled-up aces over kings.

This battle is called No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em, and the "rounders," or players, are medical troops deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Every couple of weeks, troops with Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division's surgeon section in Baghdad experience this kind of mini-drama, mimicking scenes of televised Texas No-Limit Hold 'Em tournament coverage on DVD.

Capt. David "KGZ" Zimmerman, medical operations officer for the 1st Cavalry Division, knows all the angles. The key to no-limit is to play the man, not the cards.

When the KGZ gets in poker mode, he pulls out all the stops. He has a baseball cap pulled down low and some black wraparound shades he'll wear in the pitch of night to ensure no one plays him.

The Cav guys call Hold 'Em the Cadillac of poker.

"It's a game that takes 30 seconds to learn and lifetime to master," said Lt. Col. Roberto "Smooth Operator" Nang, the division surgeon, whose tactic is to up the ante just to test the waters.

They started playing downrange after the KGZ wrote to the World Poker Tour and some Las Vegas casinos. Simple letters got the captain 400 decks of cards donated to the troops from the MGM Grand and Aladdin casinos, five free sets of the first season of the World Poker Tour, and a box of casino chips from [www.oldvegas.com](http://www.oldvegas.com).

Across a cheap white plastic table, the KGZ begins to deal. Just behind the troops, scenes of Vegas and the Bellagio dance across a television screen.

If it wasn't for the missing green felt tables and tinkling of ice cubes, the KGZ's air-conditioned



PHOTOS BY JESSICA INIGO/Stars and Stripes

**Above:** Maj. Jim "Diamond Jim" Kelley, chief of medical plans and operations for Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division, puts on a poker face before he calls the pot on the Smooth Operator, Lt. Col. Roberto Nang, the division surgeon. Diamond Jim lost to the surgeon but said he's prepared to take the poker posse on during their next game in a couple of weeks. **Below:** Capt. David "KGZ" Zimmerman, medical operations officer, donning half of his typical poker guise, prepares to lay down the chips during a game of No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em.

trailer could be mistaken for a casino in the middle of a different desert.

Almost forgetting the earlier banter of trash talkin', the game starts quietly as everyone peeks at their cards. These high rollers try to make the game as real as possible when they get the chance to play. The stakes are high.

Though gambling is not authorized, per Army regulation, what these rounders win is so much better: bragging rights, the honor of being called "Johnny Chan," a two-time World Series of Poker champion, including a framed mug of the legend to keep until the next game, and exclusion from having to buy the next round of refreshments and snacks.

## More stories on the poker phenomenon on Pages 4-6

Usually the medical crew plays twice a month, depending on workload, according to Maj. Jim "Diamond Jim" Kelley, chief of medical plans and operations.

Diamond Jim said when the time is finally right to get the game going, the trash talkin' begins around noon.

"The colonel [Smooth Operator] is a good poker player in his own right," Diamond Jim offered, "but he's also got one of the fastest records for being asked to leave the table. He's lost all his chips in just two hands."

Quickly the banter progresses throughout the day until everyone gets off work.

The winner of the last game hosts the evening's event in his trailer. This time's winner is a laid-back guy named Sgt. 1st Class Steven "Sgt. Harley" Plante, the medical intelligence noncommissioned officer in charge.

He's not a trash talker, but more of a one-liner, throwing in jobs when necessary, just to keep his competitors in check.

"These three guys," Harley said, pointing to the KGZ, Smooth Operator and Diamond Jim, "are the biggest trash talkers. Some-



times you have to stand on a chair, it get so deep in here."

Sgt. Harley said the night he won several weeks ago was a typical poker night in the hooch, just struggling along, but then his luck changed and he took it all. He's planning on hosting the next go round sometime in the next two weeks.

His competitors said all he's planning on doing is losing. All but one player, Sgt. 1st Class Buddy "Die Hard" Beavers, has had the opportunity to be Johnny Chan. Die Hard, medical operation noncommissioned officer in charge, blames it on not being able to attend as many games as he would like.

The truth is, no one in the medi-

cal unit plays as much as they would like.

"There are no weekends, no hours, per se," Diamond Jim said. He explained that in their section, they work around the clock and are always on call.

With the harrowing work schedule, Smooth Operator said from a medical standpoint it actually makes sense to play cards.

"Number one, it's important not to be isolated, lonely or depressed out here. By coming together we share in camaraderie," said Smooth Operator. "Number two, in terms of an outlet for stress and other relief, playing games or cards, from a morale and welfare point of view, is very therapeutic."

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**"Rounders"** from Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Cavalry Division's surgeon section in Baghdad said playing poker helps them work together better as team, as well as helping release stress from demanding work hours while deployed.

# Are card games a great way to kill time aboard ship

BY JASON CHUDY

Stars and Stripes

NAPLES, Italy — Odds are that if you were on a ship, you can find a card game.

Playing cards, according to Petty Officer 1st Class Anthony Jackson of the Fleet Air Mediterranean staff, is as popular in the Navy as it is back in the United States.

"On a ship, especially out at sea, there's a limit at what you can do [with free time]," he said. "Gambling on a ship is not allowed, but it does happen."

Cards are played "anywhere you can set up a table," Jackson said. "[Sailors] know who to talk to on the 'boat.'"

"When they don't like what's on [the shipboard TV station], they go and play cards or dominoes," said Petty Officer 1st Class Richard Lynden, NSA Naples' first lieutenant. "In the evening, you'd just get off of work and play cards to pass the time."

Most of the games on the ships are either poker or spades, said Lynden, who has spent 10 of his 18 Navy years on ships.

"Cards were fairly important to morale," he said.

Jackson said there are a few reasons why card games are important aboard ship. Space, he said, is limited and a deck of cards fits anywhere. Then, there are free cards.

"The casinos used to send us cards on a regular basis," he said. Jackson said he preferred to play the card game "Tonk" with him on his two ships, the destroyer USS Cunningham and submarine tender USS Simon Lake.

"You need to know who you're playing with," he said. "When I used to do it a lot, we used to take the new guys and set them up in the beginning."

"It was a steady income," he said. "You could make two or three grand in two or three hours."

Sailors also spend a lot of time playing spades.

## Military may have had role in rise of poker in the States

BY PATRICK DICKSON

Stars and Stripes

The history of poker is widely disputed, but one prevailing theory holds that the U.S. military played an important role in the growth of its popularity in America.

Decks of cards with "face cards" are believed to have been developed in France and brought to America when the French settled in what would become New Orleans. There, it's believed, the four suits in existence today were introduced.

A game of bluffing and betting called "poker" (pronounced "poke") became popular.

"In the Southern vernacular," said World Poker Tour chairman Stephen Lipscomb, "the game became known as 'poke-ham.'"

Modern poker was carried up the Mississippi and Ohio rivers by steamboat, and into the interior by wagon and train, then head-on west with the California gold rush.

But it was Civil War soldiers who caused a dramatic explosion in the popularity of poker, when tens of thousands of soldiers played the game in barracks across the North and South.

The Civil War also brought about games such as stud poker, the "draw" variant, and hands such as the straight.

When the war was over, the game went home with them, most notably traveling northward with Union soldiers returning from the Battle of Vicksburg, Lipscomb said.

"I had a spades buddy back in the North Island [CA]," said Petty Officer 3rd Class Amanda VanTassel, a corpsman at the base's branch medical clinic. "I miss him."

VanTassel has lived in the Naples barracks for about a year and said that finding a card game in the barracks isn't necessarily that easy.

Many sailors would rather go out for a night on the town, or travel, rather than stay holed up in a barracks room or apartment for a card game.

"People spend more time going on," VanTassel said. "Especially in the summer, people want to get away from the base. They might play, but it'll be out of boredom more than anything."

But if sailors want to play cards on base, they should be familiar with military and command regulations as well as local law, said

Cmdr. Ken O'Rourke, the Naples Area Service Office executive officer.

"The problem with poker is that it's generally accompanied by gambling," he said, "and Federal regulations, as well as the Uniform Code of Military Justice, have a number of provisions addressing gambling."

There are limited exceptions, he said, such as for slots — and video poker — in overseas Morale, Welfare and Recreation-run clubs, and one that "authorizes friendly wagers between friends if those assigned family quarters and permitted under local law."

Playing with co-workers is OK, but don't invite the boss or other personnel to play.

"People always need to be cognizant of fraternization issues and certain absolute prohibitions against gambling with subordinates," O'Rourke added.

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## What are the odds?

In poker, the winning hand is determined by how tough it is to get that hand. OK: You've got 10, jack, king of clubs, but also the king of hearts. Go with the pair? Go for a royal flush? Should you do the math, or go with a hunch? That's the choice you make, the chance you take.

<b>Royal Flush</b>	The highest possible straight flush, essentially, Odds of getting this hand: 1 in 650,000	A K Q J 10 ♠ ♣ ♠ ♠ ♠
<b>Straight Flush</b>	Five in a row, same suit. Odds: 1 in 65,000	9 8 7 6 5 ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦
<b>Four of a Kind</b>	Looks really cool, doesn't it? A monopoly! Odds: 1 in 4,000	K K K K 7 ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠
<b>Full House</b>	Three cards of one rank, and two of another. Odds: 1 in 700	J J J 8 8 ♦ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠
<b>Flush</b>	All the same suit, no order. Another pretty hand. Odds: 1 in 500	2 7 9 J K ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥ ♥
<b>Straight</b>	All in a row, suit doesn't matter. Odds: 1 in 250	Q J 10 9 8 ♥ ♥ ♠ ♠ ♠
<b>Three of a Kind</b>	Odds: 1 in 50	K K K 8 9 ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠
<b>Two Pair</b>	Odds: 1 in 20	10 10 9 9 5 ♥ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠
<b>One Pair</b>	Odds: 1 in 2,233	10 10 K 8 3 ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠
<b>High Card</b>	Odds impossible to determine; depends on highest card held. Lowest possible hand: 7, 5, 4, 3, 2	A 5 6 2 3 ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠ ♠

Source: Stars and Stripes

PETER PHOTO/Stars and Stripes

## Popular poker variations

Most informal poker gatherings are held using "dealer's choice": the deal rotates among players, with the dealer picking the game. All games have variants, and it's the dealer's choice as to which apply.

### 7-Card Stud

Probably the best-known of all poker games, and the one with the most variations. Each player is dealt seven cards by their own: often two down, then four up, and a final card down. Variations include: 7 to 7 players. Played with:

### Baseball

Each player is dealt seven cards: two down, four up, and a final card down. Threes and nines are wild, and often, a four will earn the player an extra card, perhaps for a small price.

### Midnight Baseball

Seven cards are dealt face-down and no one can look at their cards. Players turn up their cards in turn, besting the previous high hand and betting as they go. Wild cards are the same as regular Baseball.

### Follow the Queen

Two cards down, four up, last one down. This time, the queen is wild (be it up or down, as a "hole card") and whatever follows an "up" queen is also wild. What makes it interesting is that if an-

other queen is turned up, the card that follows it becomes the new wild card, potentially changing hands drastically. Too many variants to list.

### Mexican Sweat

Seven cards are dealt face-down; again, it's "no peek." After each player has seven, three cards are dealt "up" in the middle of the table; a card to be beaten by the first player (e.g., if the card turned up is an ace, the first player must turn up a pair to bring betting); a wild card (the three others of its rank are wild) and a "kill" card (the other getting that card are eliminated).

### 5-Card Stud

Similar to 7-Card Stud. The obvious difference is that each player receives five cards. The first is dealt face down with the four following cards dealt face up. One variant is having the last card dealt face-down.

### Texas Hold 'Em

Favored by the big guns and the one used in the popular TV shows. Each player gets two cards turned up. Each player must make their hand with their two hole cards and three of the community cards.

— Patrick Dickson

## Stone-faced celebrities join in

BY PATRICK DICKSON

Stars and Stripes

While television is cluttered with unreal reality shows, this competition is genuine, cerebral and full of high drama.

It's tournament poker, and the tense exchanges of hundreds of thousands of dollars are the hottest ticket in American television.

Behind baseball caps and suits, these modern-day gunslingers read weaknesses, watch for any frailties and pull the trigger when they feel it's right.

Poker tournaments date back to 1949, but they weren't televised until the early 1990s. Early versions of televised poker drew little attention.



Duke

Then the Discovery Channel asked filmmaker Stephen Lipscomb to do a one-hour documentary on the game.

Lipscomb was fascinated by the drama of high-stakes poker and soon started the "World Poker Tour" and created a sensation on, of all things, The Travel Channel.

He brought his presentation skills to the table, installing "blipstick" cameras at each player's seat so the viewing audience could see the "hole cards" or the cards dealt face-down that only that particular player can see.

That changed the whole experience, said professional player Annie Duke. "Without seeing the hole card, it's just a bunch of stone-faced people sitting around a table. But with the lipstick camera, it becomes very exciting and fun to watch."

Poker also is exciting, Lipscomb found, because "it's the perfect blend of luck and skill."

SEE POKER ON PAGE 5



# Poker: Well-known, little-known belly up to tables

POKER, FROM PAGE 4

"You and I could get on the court with the Lakers or Pistons, and we'd get killed," he laughed. "But [with poker], you and I can play against the pros!"

Lipscomb also was able to build story lines and avoided clichés with his brief bios of the players, in which no one tells, over a tinkling piano, how his steelworker father got up at 3:30 every morning to drive him to the municipal poker table for practice.

Now, ESPN hosts the "World Series of Poker" and Bravo holds the "Celebrity Poker Showdown" to rival the World Poker Tour's "Hollywood Home Game."

Lipscomb delights in the fact that ESPN recently showed poker for 24 hours straight, and he said that a recent "World Poker Tour" show drew 3 percent of all viewers in America — a high number given the number of channels on most cable systems.

Their game is No-Limit Texas Hold 'Em.

Each player gets two cards face down and can bet, if they're staying in. Three community cards are put on the table, face-up, in what's called the flop.

Players again bet based on the combined cards. Two more cards are turned up, and players make the best five out of their seven



PHOTOS COURTESY OF THE WORLD POKER TOUR

Innovations in televising big-money poker games have brought an upsurge in viewer interest and made celebrities out of some of the top players in the United States. Above: Jennifer Harman is the only woman who can claim two World Championship titles. Right: The 2000 World Champion Chris "Jesus" Ferguson is instantly recognizable with his trademark long brown hair and cowboy hat.

cards. And the money flies.

But why poker, and not bridge? Or blackjack?

Chris "Jesus" Ferguson, a Ph.D. in artificial intelligence and the 2000 World Champion, feels it's the game's unique combination of skill and luck that is its drawing card.

"It's a great game. There's a lot of thinking going on, but lots of luck, too. And the human element — there's a lot of emotion shown by the players. It's really works,

from the game-show aspect."

Duke, sister of the current world champion Howard Lederer, and poker pro for the past ten years, agrees.

"In craps, there's no skill — it's all luck. Baccarat — there's a huge element of chance," she said.

"And in chess, chess is deeply intellectual. If I played Kasparov 100 times, he'd win 100 times. But you combine the two elements in poker."

And it's an equal-opportunity game, Duke said.

"I don't like when people single me out because I'm a woman," she said.

Duke spoke of winning a recent tournament:

"The day I won, there were two tournaments — women only, and open. I played with the men. But [women-only tables] are a great treat for women."

Celebrities are addicted, too —

to both watching and playing.

"It's interesting to watch the different styles [of the pros]," said Lou Diamond Phillips in a telephone interview.

Playing Texas Hold 'Em is "my new passion," Phillips said. But he knows his depth.

"You're always in danger against the pros," Phillips said. "So they never make a stupid bet."

So Phillips plays other celebs on "Hollywood Home Game." His take on his rivals?

"Ben Affleck plays a lot. Really good. Tobey Maguire is a good player."



Phillips

"James Woods is a really good player, probably the best. A really tight player. He's a brain."

Does he have advice to the GI who wants to learn?

"Yeah, man, play! You have to take some bad beats before you get good. You've gotta get a feel for the table. Play!"

E-mail Pat Dickson at: [dicksonp@stripes.ossd.mil](mailto:dicksonp@stripes.ossd.mil)

## Coming to your FIRSTRUN Theater!

GRAB LIFE BY THE BALL

### DodgeBall

a TRUE underdog story

Starring Ben Stiller and Vince Vaughn.

When corporate workout center Globo Gym moves to town, locally owned fitness center Average Joe's loses business it can't afford to lose. Faced with going under, the crew from Joe's enters a high-stakes dodgeball tournament in order to save their cherished local gym.



PG-13

Tom Hanks  
Catherine Zeta-Jones

### The Terminal

An Eastern European immigrant is forced to live at Kennedy Airport when his former war-torn country's borders are erased, voiding his passport and leaving him with no political home. The refugee meets and falls in love with a flight attendant, which prompts a bold escape plan.

Life is waiting.



PG-13

clin & save

DodgeBall

The Terminal

Show dates are approximate. Check your local theater or aafes.com for exact show dates and times.

Aviano	6-12 Aug
Babenhhausen	6-12 Aug
Salad	2-8 Jul
Samberg	5-15 Jul
Saunders	23-29 Jul
Silberg	6-12 Aug
Camp Doha	23-29 Jul
Darnstadt	30 Jul - 5 Aug
Dexheim	15-22 Jul
Friedberg	13-19 Aug
Giebelstadt	30 Jul - 5 Aug
Grafenwehr	5-15 Jul
Hana	2-8 Jul
Heidelberg	5-15 Jul
Hohenfels	16-22 Jul
Kitzingen	23-29 Jul
Kosovo	27 Aug - 2 Sep
Lakenheath	5-15 Jul
Mannheim	2-8 Jul
Mittenhall	2-8 Jul
Ramstein Hardside	16-22 Jul
Ramstein Nightingale	5-15 Jul
Rhein Main	23-29 Jul
Spangdahlem	30 Jul - 5 Aug
Tarfa	13-19 Aug
Vaihingen	15-22 Jul
Vicenza	13-19 Aug
Vitsek	2-8 Jul
Vogelsheim	2-8 Jul
Wiesbaden	5-15 Jul
Wuerzburg	2-8 Jul

AAFES

Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or [aafes.com](http://aafes.com) to verify show dates.

THEATERS

# No glitz or glamour, but plenty of charm at Western casino

By ADAM GOLDMAN  
The Associated Press

LAS VEGAS — On a stretch of despair that tourists seldom see, the Western Hotel-Casino stands out as a beacon for the broke and nearly broken.

With their crumpled dollars and gloomy gait, they stumble in off Fremont Street through the wide, doorless entrance, beckoned by the sounds of penny slot machines and cheap table games.

The Western is a poor man's dream, a downtown casino where sad Las Vegas clichés collide.

"This is the underbelly of Vegas," said 28-year-old Byron Hilton, who was playing \$2 blackjack at a recent Friday night.

"This is not the Strip."

The boxy structure is planted among a slew of low-income houses and budget motels — the Downtown, the Uptown, and the incongruous Lucky. The Western feeds from one of the city's bleakest Zip codes, stained by high poverty and unemployment rates.

Inside they gamble, pouring nickels and quarters down the throats of always hungry machines.

The roulette table sees an occasional gambler, but the blackjack tables — marred by cigarette burns and beer stains — get plenty of action at minimum \$1, \$2 and \$5 bets.

"You can't win no money here," said 38-year-old Ace, who has frequented the Western since 1995, the same year he said he "pulled a job" in Reno, and had to get out of town "real quick."

In the early morning weekend hours, the smoke hangs in the air like a veil, a giant gray cloud that wraps itself around the customers. The booze is working its sleepy magic.

Some people are slumped over, passed out. Roused, they are politely, gently made to leave.

Others, thumbing their last casino chip and in need of one more drink, look to Betty Williams.

Williams has walked the worn floors as a cocktail waitress for 31 years. She's spent the past 15 of those working the smoky graveyard shift.

She has logged the most time at the Western, except for an algae-colored bingo machine that has been pumping out balls since the casino opened in January 1971.

The 54-year-old Williams, who's originally from Tallulah, La., loves the graveyard shift and

loves the Western. The teetotaler has never been married and doesn't have bad days.

In a city that exploits weakness and promotes vice, Williams has never buckled. Known to her loyal customers as Miss Betty, she doesn't blink.

"I don't let nothin' bother me," Williams said, her soft Southern drawl draping her words.

"I've seen all types in the Western, down from the poor to the rich," she said. "You got to treat them all the same. I laugh with everybody."

Williams does more than tote complimentary cans of Budweiser and Tecate. She delivers hope.

"I try to lift their spirits when they don't have anything. A lot of people like to come talk to me because I'm a good listener."

Her common refrain: "You gotta get off the drugs, clean your self up and look for a job and save your money."



Waitress Betty Williams accepts a tip Wednesday during the graveyard shift at the Western Hotel and Casino in Las Vegas. Williams is a 31-year veteran of the casino.

## Messages of Support

★ Dear Servicemembers of Operation Iraqi Freedom: We are Ms. Anna Lunt's third grade class. We are proud of you and wish you safety and success each and every day. We love you and are praying for you. You are our heroes!!! Thank you. Ms. Lunt's class

## Messages of Support

★ We send our heartfelt thanks and gratitude to all our service men and women who are serving our great country both here and abroad. Thanks to you and your gallant efforts, we all enjoy our freedom (unfortunately too many Americans take it for granted). We pray for your safe and speedy return home. Stephanie & Ray



Dogs are shown at a poker table in a re-creation of the famous "Looks Like Four of a Kind" painting Thursday at the Sands Casino Hotel in Atlantic City, N.J.

# At casino, life imitates art

Atlantic City hotel really has dogs playing cards

By JOHN CURRAN  
The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — Some gamblers just don't know how to play their cards.

Tiny Chip, for example. His three blackjack cards totaled 19, but he took a card anyway. It was a three of hearts, so he busted.

Jack Attack had the same problem. Sitting pretty with 18, he still wanted another card. He got a seven of diamond, busting with 25.

Then there was Lucky Louise. The dealer hadn't even gotten to her yet when she got up out of her seat, walked across the green felt table and stepped in the chip float, her bushy tail wagging.

Sands Casino Hotel workers used five live dogs to re-create artist C.M. Coolidge's famously low-brow painting of dogs playing poker in a publicity stunt to drum up interest for a new table games pit.

"Sands Casino Hotel: Where the Big Dogs Play," read the sign

in the pit, which has per-hand betting minimums of \$500 on weekends. Built to lure high-stakes players, the pit features roulette wheels, a craps table and six blackjack tables.

The crowd parted to make way for dog handlers as they ushered in the animals — dog "actors" who work in advertising, TV and movies — on leashes.

The dogs, who remained seated through most of the hand, barked to ask for cards. It was on command from the handlers, of course.

Stars and Stripes

## Messages of Support

★ What more can be said than "Thank You" and "true Americans are very proud of you!!"

★ To B. Kitchens and all of our men and women in Iraq: We appreciate all that you doing and wish you all the best and await for your speedy return. We wanted to personally write to THANK YOU ALL!!! Love and Support, The Kitchens Family and especially your lil. bro Rob.

★ To All U.S. Servicemen and Servicewomen: My Dad was a WW II veteran and my brother is currently with the U.S. Navy on the USS Harry S. Truman, Air Traffic Control. I want to thank each and every one of you for the time, effort, and sacrifice you give each day to ensure that we remain free and safe in the United States. We really do live in the greatest country in the world, and I hope every person living in the U.S. today realizes how fortunate they are. I support you 100% and am proud to be an American citizen. S. Blal. Oak Park, IL

★ Thank you so much for the courage you have to help freeing the people of Iraq from Saddam. You are making a great sacrifice. As an American, I am proud of anyone who is a defender of freedom. I hope you have the endurance for the days ahead. I pray that you have a safe journey. Thank you. Paula

★ God is our refuge and strength an ever-present help in trouble. Therefore we will not fear though the earth give away. (psalm46) Our God is in control and we will prevail!!! Have confidence and do not fear you are Awesome Thanks for your bravery and dedication to our country. I am praying for all of you. W. Rander. Bakersfield, Ca

★ Thank you for all you are doing to protect my freedom. The sacrifices you are making for the rest of us are unimaginable. Please know my thoughts and prayers are with each and everyone of you for a safe return home to your loved ones. Thank you from the bottom of my heart/God Bless America. Lisa, Loveland, Colorado.

# Insurgents launch new attacks in Baqouba

BY JIM KRANE  
The Associated Press

BAQHAD — Insurgents launched attacks in a tense city northeast of Baghdad on Saturday, and nine people died, six of them insurgents, U.S. and Iraqi officials said. Attacks occurred in other cities north and south of the capital.

The attacks in Baqouba, 35 miles northeast of Baghdad, occurred only two days after U.S. tanks and jets routed insurgents who assaulted police stations and government offices there as part of a widespread offensive that killed about 100 people nationwide.

In the Saturday attacks, rebels targeted offices of two political parties — one of them run by Iraq's prime minister — a police station and a government building in Baqouba. U.S. soldiers and Iraqi security forces took up defensive positions across the city, the center of Iraq's orange-growing region.

A taxi apparently filled with weapons and ammunition blew up a street about 250 yards from one of the political party offices that was attacked earlier, witnesses reported.

Elsewhere, insurgents killed two Iraqi National Guardsmen in an ambush in Mahmudiya, about 20 miles south of Baghdad. A police officer also was killed in a separate attack Saturday, said the director of the Mahmudiya general hospital, Dawoud al-Taei.

A car bomb exploded Saturday in the Kurdish stronghold of Irbil, injuring the culture minister of the pro-American Kurdistan Democratic Party and killing his bodyguard and injuring 18 people — four of them children.

Gunfire broke out Saturday in the Shiite holy city of Najaf, and ambulances raced to the scene. It was unclear who was shooting and why since the city has been

## Poll: Half think war a mistake

WASHINGTON — For the first time, a majority of Americans say they think the United States made a mistake sending troops to Iraq, according to a poll released Thursday.

The CNN-USA Today-Gallup poll found that 54 percent of people say the war was a mistake, up from 41 percent who felt that way in early June.

The finding that more than half now think

the Iraq war was a mistake recalls the disillusionment of Americans in 1968 with the Vietnam War. The first time a majority said that was a mistake was in August 1968.

In the Persian Gulf War more than a decade ago, the highest that level of concern got was three in 10.

The negative findings on the Iraq war come as the United States prepares to turn over sovereignty of the country to Iraqis. But there are few signs that American troops will

be leaving anytime soon, with violence from insurgents on the rise.

As of Thursday, 842 U.S. troops have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defense Department. Insurgents in Iraq set off car bombs and seized police stations Thursday in an offensive that killed more than 100 people.

The poll of 1,005 adults was taken June 21-23 and has a margin of sampling error of plus or minus 3 percentage points.

— The Associated Press

generally quiet since an agreement several weeks ago to end clashes between U.S. soldiers and radical Shiite militiamen.

Several strong explosions rumbled through central Baghdad before dawn Saturday but the origin was unclear.

Gunmen attacked a police station in the New Baghdad area but officers fought back and forced the attackers to flee, an Interior Ministry official said. Police arrested three Iraqis.

The attacks were the latest in a wave of violence in the days leading to the transfer of sovereignty on Wednesday. Most of the attacks have been directed at the interim Iraqi government's security forces or the foundation of its power.

American soldiers also were targeted. The military said a U.S. soldier died of wounds suffered in a coordinated attack Saturday on a patrol in central Baghdad.

In the Baqouba attacks, insurgents fired rocket-propelled grenades at the offices of the Supreme Council of the Islamic Revolution in Iraq, said party member Mitham Ibrahim. Three party members died and two were injured, hospital officials said.

Gunmen also stormed the offices of interim Prime Minister Iyad Allawi's political party, the Iraq National Accord, setting off an explosion before fleeing, witnesses

said. No one was hurt. Flames and smoke poured from the building's third story windows. Police sealed off the area.

Video footage from Associated Press Television News showed men carrying bloodied victims on blankets into the city's small hospital as gunfire cracked nearby. A guerrilla in an Arab dishdasha robe ran through the streets carrying a rifle and with belts of ammunition draped over his shoulders.

Four guerrillas also attacked Baqouba's blue-domed government building, said Maj. Neal O'Brien, spokesman of the 1st Infantry Division. Armed guards returned fire and killed the four, O'Brien said. One of the attackers wore an explosive suicide vest, he said.

Two other insurgents died in an attack on a police station, O'Brien said.

Both parties hold important posts in the interim government due to assume sovereignty on Wednesday. The supreme council promotes the interests of the country's Shiite majority, which has long struggled with the influential Sunni Muslim minority for political power and had cooperated with U.S. forces during a showdown last spring with Shiite extremists led by radical cleric Muqtada al-Sadr.

In Baghdad, Iraq's defense minister, Hazem Shaalan, warned Friday of a "showdown" with insurgents, and officials repeated warnings that the new government may impose some form of martial law in selected areas of the country if order cannot be restored.

Much of the violence has been blamed on a movement led by Jordanian-born extremist Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who U.S. officials believe is operating from Fallujah, which emerged as a virtual green zone for insurgents after U.S. Marines gave up their siege of the city in April having failed to rout rebels there.

U.S. jets launched an airstrike against a suspected al-Zarqawi hideout in Fallujah on Friday — the third such strike in less than a week. U.S. officials estimated up to 25 people were killed, however. Al-Jazeera television and a witness said the building was empty at the time.

CNN quoted a U.S. official as saying a convoy which may have been al-Zarqawi's had just arrived at the building. A man was blown down by the blast but was hustled away from the site by aides. In Washington, several Pentagon officials with access to information about the airstrike said they could not confirm the CNN account.

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An Iraqi woman and her children leave their home as U.S. troops from the 1st Infantry Division enter the building during a search for weapons in Baqouba, Iraq, on Saturday.

# U.S. readies embassy for Iraq transition

## U.S. ambassador prepares for June 30 start to guiding government of Iraq

BY JIM KRANE  
The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — It's the biggest American handover of power since the United States and the Allies returned sovereignty to Germany and Japan after World War II.

But the Americans aren't leaving. They're merely adjusting their status Wednesday, shifting from running Iraq to guiding it.

"We are essentially going from being the sovereign government of Iraq to a U.S. embassy," said Rob Tappan, who heads the occupation authority's press office. "We become a partner of the people of Iraq as opposed to the governing body or a sovereign power."

The United States, Britain and other nations remain deeply involved in Iraq. Their troops will stay on, and the American and British governments are pursuing a mammoth aid effort.

U.S. Ambassador John Negroponte will be "field captain" — and custodian of an \$18.4 billion program for rebuilding Iraq, which officials describe as the largest foreign aid project in U.S. history.

But the incoming diplomats face the same predicament that hamstringing the occupation authority: a guerrilla war that virtually imprisoned Iraq's American and British rulers inside Baghdad's sealed-off green zone. The new team will still have to conduct di-

plomacy behind sandbagged walls and in armored cars.

The U.S. Embassy will house a staff of around 1,000 Americans, including State Department diplomats, contractors and hundreds of employees from myriad U.S. government agencies on temporary assignment.

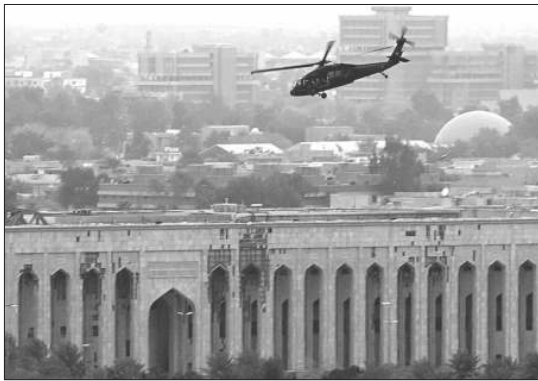
Some 700 Iraqis are expected to take jobs at the U.S. Embassy, which will also have four outposts around Iraq with 100 Americans in each. The U.S. Agency for International Development will have about 100 employees in Baghdad.

Britain's new embassy plans a staff of around 100, along with 50 Iraqi workers. An additional 200 American and British consultants are expected to keep posts inside the Iraqi government.

The effort dwarfs other recent U.S. interventions to install new governments, such as the Dominican Republic in 1965, Grenada in 1983, Panama in 1989 and Haiti in 1994, all of which were quick, small-scale military operations.

The 14 month span running Iraq is far less than the Allied rule of World War II's losers, however. The occupation of Japan ended in 1952 after seven years; West Germany did not regain full sovereignty until a decade after the war, in 1955.

That comparison is not quite apt, because Germany and Japan had to be resuscitated from the devastation of years of total war. In Iraq, the U.S.-led coalition won



**U.S. Black Hawk helicopter hovers very low above the former presidential palace of ousted Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein, located in the Green Zone in Baghdad, on March 7. The United States is set to shift from the role of leading the country to that of guiding it on Wednesday.**

an easy victory over Saddam Hussein's regime, causing much controversy with Iraq's oppressed majority, although the insurgency is muddying that distinction.

The officials taking over from occupation chief L. Paul Bremer and his Coalition Provisional Authority are a who's who of international diplomats.

Negroponte assumes his sev-

enth, presidential appointment, after leaving his job as President Bush's U.N. envoy. He is perhaps best known for serving as President Reagan's ambassador to Honduras, from where U.S.-backed guerrillas fought against the leftist government of Nicaragua.

Negroponte's team includes James Jeffrey, former envoy to Albania, Turkey and Kuwait; Ron Neumann, ambassador in Bahrain; Steve Browning, ambassador to Malawi; and Robert Ford, a top Arabist also posted to Bahrain.

Britain's embassy will be led by Ambassador Edward Chaplin, an Arabist who heads the Foreign Office's Middle East directorate. The diplomats' toughest job will be the same that so frustrated Bremer and his staff: keeping themselves safe while meeting Iraqis.

Security "is our biggest preoccupation and concern, and that will take a lot of our resources," said Francis Ricciardone, the State Department's transition coordinator. "It's very hard to be a diplomat in a country and to speak with the people you've got to speak with from behind walls or armored cars or guard details. But we do it and we manage."

Much of the diplomacy will be restricted to the green zone, an expanded version of Saddam's old governing compound that lives on as the seat of power.

The palace will be returned to the Iraqi government once new quarters are found, CPA spokesman Dan Senor said. The State Department is already negotiating to buy land in the green zone to build a new embassy, but that is likely to take a few years, Ric-

ciardone said.

Iraq's government will be temporarily headquartered in a bullet-pocked high-rise next to the Baghdad convention center.

Until three weeks ago, the building housed the U.S.-picked Iraqi Governing Council.

## U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, June 25, 848 U.S. servicemen have died since the beginning of military operations in Iraq last year, according to the Defense Department. Of those, 627 died as a result of hostile action and 221 died of nonhostile causes.

The British military has reported 58 deaths; Italy, 18; Spain, eight; Bulgaria and Poland, six each; Ukraine, four; Slovakia, three; Thailand, two; Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia and the Netherlands have reported one each.

Since May 1, 2003, when President Bush declared that major combat operations in Iraq had ended, 710 U.S. servicemen have died — 518 as a result of hostile action and 192 of nonhostile causes, according to the military as of Friday.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ No new deaths reported.

■ The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Staff Sgt. Charles A. Kiser, 37, Cleveland, Wis., killed Thursday in an explosion in Mosul, Iraq; assigned to the Army Reserves 330th Military Police Detachment, Sheboygan, Wis.

Stars and Stripes

## Messages of Support

★ Hi! It's hard to find words to express the appreciation that I feel for everything you all are doing for America.

Everyone I know is watching the war unfold and praying for your safety. I work for county government and our Commissioners Court just approved a resolution praising our armed forces and proclaiming their support. I just wanted you all to know how much we are thinking of you and hoping to have you all home soon. Thank you so much!! N. Riegelman

★ Dear soldier, Thank you for defending freedom for all of us back here in the US. I appreciate the sacrifice you are making for our great nation. Sincerely, M. Horninger

★ Your hard work and sacrifice make me proud and fortunate to have been born, bred and raised in the U.S. You all are in my thoughts daily. Keep up the good work. --Debbie

★ R. Bronaugh in Kuwait. I just want you to know that I am thinking of you and praying for you everyday. I love you! Love, Chinetta

★ To all of our brothers and sisters fighting in the Middle East, we in Monterey, CA want you to know that you all are indeed two scoops of HOOAH. We watch you on CNN nearly 24 hours a day, most of us wishing that we could be out there on the field with you. Take care of yourselves and each other. We're with you all the way. Sincerely, Your comrades at DLI

★ Hello from New Jersey. I wanted to say that I am praying for all of you guys. You should come back safely to your loving families who are waiting for you. When you do come home, you should be praised over and over again for all the good that you have done. Your families are proud of you and so is all of America. God Bless You every day and know that America is thinking and praying for your safe return. Love, The Norris Family



# Think twice before firing

## Firefight in Fallujah shows difficulty in taking on enemy while protecting innocents

BY CHARLIE COON  
Stars and Stripes

CAMP FALLUJAH, Iraq — The Marines were patrolling a highway east of Fallujah when they began taking fire. They doubled back and were shot at again.

The platoon pulled up along the highway and pointed its guns toward a truck stop and some men, who were dressed as civilians.

"They looked like regular Iraqi citizens," said Lance Cpl. Brad Swenson of Northfield, Minn. "It was hard to distinguish where the enemy personnel were. They're really good at hiding themselves."

The guerrilla war in Iraq has forced the Marines of Company D, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion to think twice before they shoot. Armed insurgents blend in with everyone else, so U.S. troops use tactics to destroy the enemy while trying not to kill innocent people.

The enemy and the innocents both wear blue jeans and T-shirts or robes with headscarves.

The only way to tell the difference is to find the ones with rifles cocked under their arms or rocket-propelled grenades hoisted onto their shoulders.

Third platoon was finishing its six-hour shift early Thursday morning.

They'd been patrolling Route 1, the main supply route between Baghdad and Fallujah, for weeks without being fired upon.

That changed around 7:30 a.m.

"One day you'll have a guy waving to you, giving you the thumbs up," said Private 1st Class Randy Williamson of Tobyhanna, Pa. "The next day he gives it to you with an AK-47 [automatic rifle]."

"It's hard when the civilians and insurgents are basically side by side. You kind of have to pick and choose who's bad and who's good."

The Marines fired back and soon gained "fire superiority," where the enemy was ducking and the troops were able to maneuver. The platoon moved to a position where it was pointed toward the enemy fire but not at the houses in the distance or the cars on the highway.

They say the enemy is trying to goad them into coming into the city and the residential areas. The Marines didn't take the bait.



A platoon of Marines from Company D, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, head out on Friday to patrol the main highway along the eastern edge of Fallujah, Iraq. Each of the Light Armored Vehicles carries seven Marines.

PHOTOS BY  
CHARLIE COON  
Stars and Stripes

For the moment, the platoons are not allowed to proceed into the city with their eight-wheeled killing machines — light-armored vehicles equipped with a 25 mm Bushmaster chain gun, two smaller guns and seven Marines trained to destroy.

Instead, they dismounted their LAV-25s and pushed the enemy back past the hide-and-seek dunes behind the truck stop and held their position. Some of the bad guys who ran away ditched their weapons and reappeared as innocents.

After several hours, 3rd platoon was relieved by 1st platoon, which took up the fight, moving slowly back toward houses from where enemy fire was coming.

"The houses were about four kilometers [away]," said 1st Lt. Ronny Rowell of Anaheim, Calif., the 1st platoon commander. "People were running in and out of the houses."

They looked suspicious but they also looked like everybody else around. They could have been running from house to house trying to get weapons or trying to shoot mortars, or they could have been trying to get their kids so they could run away and get protected."

Helicopters came in and destroyed a few houses from where rockets and mortars were being shot. The fighting on the eastern side of Fallujah continued into Thursday night and the week-

end.

For Williamson, who finished boot camp in October and joined his battalion in January, it was his first firefight. He helped take out the enemy fighters and caused others to retreat.

He was happy that he didn't choke.

"I was afraid we were going to get down to the nitty-gritty and I was going to freeze up," he said. "It's not something you want to do when you have [six other guys on your vehicle] worrying about you laying down fire or taking out the guy who is about to shoot an RPG at you."

"Your round can make a difference between something goes wrong and something doesn't."

The Marines know they'll win almost every fight against



Lance Cpl. Brad Swenson of Company D, 2nd Light Armored Reconnaissance Battalion, checks the engine on his Light Armored Vehicle before heading out on a patrol.

the insurgents. Usually the score will be lopsided. On Thursday, members of 3rd and 1st platoons killed an estimated 20 members of the enemy but themselves suffered only a handful of minor shrapnel wounds.

Yet the enemy fighters kept showing themselves, only to be killed.

"They know [they can't win], but in their minds what they're doing is right for them," said Lance Cpl. Ken Torok of Redding, Pa.

Yet the enemy runs for cover. Surely those men who were running must have wanted to live, Torok is told.

"They're just running away to try to find a better spot to attack us," Torok said. "And it doesn't work."

E-mail Charlie Coon at: cooncc@mail.strips.esd.mil

Stars and Stripes

# Messages of Support

Thinking of you and keeping you in our thoughts and prayers. Take care and God Bless. C. Shortall

I AM THE MOTHER OF LANCE CORP. ROBERT ANDRESS OF THE 1 MARINE DIVISION 3RD BATTALION OF THE 5TH REGIMENT. WE ARE AWAITING HIS SAFE RETURN AND THE RETURN OF EVERYONE LOVED ONES AS WELL. GOD BLESS YOU ALL ARE PRAYERS ARE WITH YOU. WE LOVE YOU BOBBY! THANK YOU, D. Andress

We love you, and we are grateful for the service and sacrifice you are giving for the defending of our freedom. May you know that you have the support of the majority of Americans who are supporting you and your mission. Our prayers are with you, and you are in our thoughts - always. We are proud of all of you, be safe. Semper Fi, Dad, Mom, your siblings and specially Lucky ( she misses you already)

As I sit safely in my home, it occurs to me, that this mere fact is because of all the brave service men and women serving in the

Persian Gulf and all around the world. I want them all to know, they are in my families thoughts and prayers daily. Thank you and God bless you all. Respectfully, M. Brundage

Just a quick note, we are all very proud of you and will support you all the way through. May God bless you and America. S. Olvares. Indianapolis, IN

# For Army reservist, troops' happiness is the top priority

## Supervisor of Qatar R&R program puts heart into warfighters' break

BY FRED ZIMMERMAN

Stars and Stripes

CAMP AS SAYLIYAH, Qatar — When Army Master Sgt. Ellie Walbridge came to Qatar, she couldn't believe the state of the facilities being used for the four-day Fighter Management Pass Program.

The welcome center was in a large, dirty, open-room warehouse with no air conditioning, said Walbridge, the program's Morale, Welfare and Recreation supervisor.

It wasn't the proper facility to welcome combat troops looking for a four-day break from Operations Iraqi Freedom and Enduring Freedom.

"I thought 'What are we trying to represent here,'" she said. "You want to create an inviting,

relaxing atmosphere so [the troops] can come here and not be uptight."

To create the right atmosphere, Walbridge went to the camp's top NCO, Sgt. Maj. George Ponder, and said she wanted to make things better. He quickly gave her the go-ahead.

The first step was moving the offices and welcome center for the program. She said the chapel and chaplain's offices had just moved out of the other end of the building, and that area was complete with offices and A/C.

Another improvement made was increasing the staff to work on the rest and recuperation program. When Walbridge arrived, she said, there were only two people manning the offices. Now, she has a staff of 11 soldiers from the



FRED ZIMMERMAN/Stars and Stripes

**Army Master Sgt. Ellie Walbridge briefs troops just arriving in Qatar in June for the beginning of their four-day Fighter Management Pass. Walbridge is the program's Morale, Welfare and Recreation supervisor.**

Wisconsin National Guard's 232nd Adjutant General Higher Headquarters Detachment.

Walbridge, who many here say really lit a fire under the program, said her troops have been told that making the men and women coming here happy is top

priority.

"If they're not providing good customer service and smiling all the time, they don't need to be here," said Walbridge, who volunteered to deploy.

Walbridge left the active service in 1999 after more than 12

years, but remained part of the service with the Reserve in Minnesota, drilling with Headquarters, 3rd Brigade.

She said when she saw what was happening in Iraq and Afghanistan, she volunteered to go; instead, she was told she would serve stateside. She admits she was disappointed, but that quickly changed when the Army called and asked her to pick between Iraq and Afghanistan. She chose the latter.

Things once again changed for Walbridge as she was told she was going to Cuba. But she was thrown another curveball less than two days before she was to leave. That's when she found out she was coming to Qatar.

"I want to be here because I love 'em. ... We owe them so much," Walbridge said of the troops that serve in Iraq and Afghanistan as tears filled her eyes, showing her concern for the young men and women.

"I volunteered because I thought, 'I can't do this anymore, it should be me there, not these young kids who haven't experienced life yet.' I want them to go home to be with their families, to be safe and feel good about what they're doing. But I know it's not all going to happen."

Walbridge's enthusiasm and energy don't go unnoticed.

Army Lt. Col. Jeffrey Corbett, the camp commander, says she has taken the program to another level.

"She came in with a new set of eyes and saw how we could improve the program," Corbett said. "She is dedicated to treating these servicemembers like the heroes they are. The way she approaches the work, you can tell it's straight from the heart."

"I consider her a hero for the way she's treating our deployed soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines."

E-mail Fred Zimmerman at: [zimmerman@sp1rines.osd.mil](mailto:zimmerman@sp1rines.osd.mil)

Stars and Stripes

## Messages of Support

★ To ALL the troops, You are the pride and joy of my heart. There are people in the states that are against the war but that doesn't mean they don't want you back safely and aren't proud of their country - remember that! I wish you all a safe return home and a successful completed mission. N. J. Kelley Connecticut

★ Most people do not understand honor, but you live it every day. And even though every drop of American blood that is spilled is a gut-wrenching reminder that you are not invincible, your courage and your sacrifice means that your life is not for nothing. You stand for freedom and bravery and most of all honor. You make me proud to be an American. Thank you.

★ Hi Stacie, Thinking of you and love you. Miss you. Can't wait till you get back. Hope to hear from you soon. Love and kisses. S. Kappel

★ Hey Bennie H, Just wanted to say my prayers are with you and the old crew in Bravo 440th. Hope you guys are doing good. My thoughts are there with you. Take care and hope to hear from you soon. M. Perales

★ MAY GOD BLESS EACH AND EVERY ONE OF YOU. THANK YOU ALL FOR THE SACRIFICE YOU ARE MAKING FOR OUR COUNTRY. I PRAY EACH AND EVERY DAY FOR YOUR SAFETY THAT GOD WILL BRING YOU HOME TO YOUR LOVED ONES. GOD BLESS THE USA

★ To the men and women in the Persian Gulf, especially those in Iraq. I just wanted to thank you all for what you are doing. I know that it will be difficult and sometimes painful. Please know that all of us here at home are behind you. Take care of yourself, your buddy and your unit. Do your job, keep your weapon clean and come home in one piece. Thank you very much. D. Farb

★ I want to commend you all for your commitment to freedom. My prayers are with you. I pray that our mission will be speedy and your return soon. God bless you all.

★ Just wanted to let you know how much I support all of you. You guys ROCK!! I can't thank you enough for fighting for my freedom--you make me proud to be in such a wonderful free country. You all are in my prayers each and every day--God bless you all!!!! L. Loyd

★ We know that you are facing difficult days and nights. We also know that you are the best trained, best equipped and most capable fighting force in the world. You are up to anything the enemy can send your way. Never doubt that! Whip their behinds!

★ I just want you to know that despite what you are hearing, you are loved and respected by the American public! We are forever in your debt. You ARE making this world a safer place, especially for the Iraqis and Afghans. I wish I were there with you to help protect you, but for now all I can offer are my prayers. We love you and are praying for your safe return! THANK YOU! S. Duncan. Galloway, Ohio

★ Give em hell. I am a Vietnam vet and I really appreciate what you are doing for our Country. Duty Honor Country. Be safe. Jim in Hillsboro, Or.

★ From someone in Texas who works for a defense contractor, I am doing everything I can to make sure you stay safe and come home to your family soon. Thank you for fighting for freedom. You are brave, selfless, and honorable. Thank you, thank you, thank you!

# Monument dedicated to Kuwait crash victims

## Black Hawk unit pays tribute to four aviators killed in 2003

BY STEVE LIEWER

Stars and Stripes

GIEBELSTADT, Germany — Steadied by her daughter on one side and her husband on the other, Orelia Gonzalez clasped the spray of roses tightly to her breast.

Silently she wiped away tears as officers shared from her fallen son's unit honored memories of the men they knew with the families that loved them best.

Sixteen months after a sandstorm engulfed a UH-60 Black Hawk flying a training mission and slammed it into the Kuwaiti desert floor, members of the 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment gathered Friday to dedicate a monument in memory of the two pilots and two crew chiefs who died that night.

"We are paying tribute to your loved ones, and our loved ones," said Col. Raymond Palumbo, commander of the 12th Aviation Brigade, the battalion's Giebelstadt-based parent unit. "The American soldier holds a very special place in American society. They sometimes pay the ultimate sacrifice, but we must understand that the sacrifice is not futile."

The unit remembered Chief Warrant Officer 2 Tim Moehling, 36, described by battalion commander Lt. Col. Eldon "Pete" Franks as a "gifted pilot" who loved nothing better when he wasn't flying than to pile his wife, Lisa, and three children into their minivan and drive all over Europe.

They remembered Chief Warrant Officer 2 John Daren Smith, 32, quiet and instantly likeable, who spoke fluent Italian, adored his wife and two daughters, and spent his spare time rock-climbing.

They remembered Sgt. Will Tracy, 27, a gung-ho former Marine with a passion for travel who volunteered for every mission he could and who, Franks said, "had seen more of Europe than any two other people in the battalion."

And they remembered Sgt. Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza, 26, a talkative leader whose fierce loyalty to Moehling put him on that fatal flight Feb. 25, 2003.

nearby flags hanging at half-staff.

Franks presented the monument, a stem-faced black eagle representing the United States, perched atop a globe and clutching the battalion crest in its talons. The pedestal was carved in Italian marble and placed in a diamond-shaped square of sand, representing the Kuwaiti desert.

It sits next to the base's flagpole, and to a monument to 26 soldiers killed in 1994 when an Air Force fighter jet

shot down two UH-60 Aviation helicopters over northern Iraq.

Members of the unit organized an independent foundation to pay the \$15,000 cost of the monument. Donations from the sculptor, Paul Moore, the Huffman Engraving Co. and the Crucible Foundry, all in Norman, Okla., cut the bill, Franks said. Soldier contributions and a successful car wash last month in Würzburg covered the rest of the cost.

The unit paid special tribute to the four family members who had flown from the United States this week for the ceremony. They included Gonzalez-Garza's parents, Ramiro and Orelia; his sister, Veronica Valadez; and Smith's father, Ron Smith.

Smith, an American Airlines pilot instructor, said he introduced his son "J.D." to piloting in one of his airline's simulators eight years ago. The young man was fascinated and earned his private pilot's license before joining the Army to fly Black Hawk helicopters.

Sad as he is over his loss, Smith said he has no regrets about turning his son on to flying.

"Aviation is not inherently dangerous but, to a greater degree than the sea, it is not forgiving of carelessness or mistakes," he said. "If you're in this business for any appreciable time, you're going to face this reality."

Valadez said her family drew strength from meeting her brother's buddies.

"It's so hard," she said. "But to be around the people he actually knew, who he served with — it's an honor to be here with the guys."

E-mail Steve Liewer at: [liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil](mailto:liewers@mail.estripes.osd.mil)



At a service Friday in Giebelstadt, Germany, Lt. Col. Eldon "Pete" Franks, commander of the 5th Battalion, 158th Aviation Regiment, hands a unit coin to Ron Smith, whose son, Chief Warrant Officer 2 J.D. Smith, was killed last year after his UH-60 Black Hawk helicopter crashed in Kuwait. To Smith's right are family members of Sgt. Rodrigo Gonzalez-Garza, who also died in the crash. They are his sister, Veronica Valadez, and his parents, Orelia and Ramiro.

PHOTOS BY STEVE LIEWER  
Stars and Stripes



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PHOTOS BY SCOTT SCHONAUER/Stars and Stripes

In a sequence of photos stitched together, Navy Petty Officer 1st Class Christopher Manning participates in the tactical portion of a shooting competition Friday at Naval Station Rota, Spain. The shootout was organized by the Marine Corps Security force and included Spanish and U.S. military commands and law enforcement agencies.

## Marines organize friendly shootout at NAS Rota



Above: Marine Lance Cpl. Shawn Thorson shoots a 9 mm pistol during a shooting competition at Naval Station Rota, Spain, on Friday. Spanish and U.S. military commands and law enforcement agencies from Naval Station Rota competed in the friendly shootout. The competition included the best shooters from such commands as the base Security Department, Naval Criminal Investigative Service, the Spanish Civil Guard and Marines from Marine Corps Security Force Company Europe. Right: Marine Staff Sgt. Eliesel Rivera explains the rules to the participants.



### Veterinary clinic closed

The Naval Support Activity Naples veterinary clinic will be closed from Monday through July 6 during its move from the Agnino complex to their new building on the Grigiano family housing support site.

Those personnel transferring during

this time can get their pet medical records at the new clinic, located between the firehouse and gym construction site.

For more information, call DSN 625-4765 or, commercial, 081-724-4765.

### La Maddalena dog laws

The town of La Maddalena has institut-

ed a leash law for dogs, and a muzzle law for some breeds, on public areas of the island.

La Maddalena Mayor Rosanna Giudice issued the ordinance that dogs must be leashed on all streets and in all public areas.

Large dogs — which included bulldogs, mastiffs, German shepherds, Great

Danes, Dobermans, Afghan hounds, Maremma shepherds, and Newfoundlands — must be leashed and muzzled when in the pedestrian areas of the historic town center.

The ordinance also requires owners to clean up waste left by their pets. Fines can range up to 10,000 euro.

From staff reports



## IN THE STATES

# Watchdog group charges Nader in ethics complaint

BY SAM HANANEL  
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — A watchdog group filed a complaint with the Federal Election Commission against Ralph Nader on Friday, saying the independent presidential candidate is violating federal campaign laws by accepting office space and telephone service from a public charity he created.

Citizens for Responsibility and Ethics in Washington alleges that Nader's campaign is renting valuable space at below-market prices from Citizen Works, an activist group that supports progressive causes.

The complaint also says Citizen Works and the Nader campaign share a common receptionist and several telephone lines.

The watchdog group also filed a complaint with the Internal Revenue Service alleging that Citizen Works is violating its status as a charitable organization by benefiting the Nader campaign. The IRS complaint asks the agency to enjoin Citizen Works from offering any further assistance to the campaign.

"Ralph Nader seems to think that because he founded Citizen Works, he can use the organization as he sees fit," said Melanie Sloan, the watchdog group's executive director. "... No one, not even Ralph Nader, is exempt from campaign finance and tax laws."

Questions about the rental arrangement were first raised in a March 15 story in the online magazine Salon. Nader has denied any wrongdoing.



A watchdog group claims independent presidential candidate Ralph Nader is violating federal campaign laws.

Nader spokesman Kevin Zeese called the allegations "totally false" and described the lawsuit as "completely frivolous and without merit." Zeese said the two organizations do not share phones and that a check with the building's landlord revealed the campaign is actually paying above-market rates for the space.



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# Cancer victim's son plans lawsuit over cigarette giveaways

The Associated Press

BOSTON — The son of a woman who died of lung cancer is planning to sue the cigarette maker that gave her free samples when she was a girl, contending the giveaways were aimed at black children.

The lawsuit against Lorillard Tobacco Co., maker of Newport cigarettes, is thought by legal experts to be the first to accuse a tobacco company of targeting black children. It is to be filed Monday in Suffolk Superior Court, The Boston Globe reported in its Saturday editions.

Marie Evans, in interviews with lawyers before she died in 2002 at age 54, said as a child she would get free sample packs of four to 10 Newport cigarettes from a company van that regularly came to the Boston housing project where she lived.

Evans estimated she received free cigarettes 25 to 50 times — the first sample when she was 9 — and traded them for candy until she was 13, when she started smoking.

"They have employed these marketing strategies to target not only children, but children in the black community," said Rebecca McIntyre of Weisman and McIntyre, which is representing Evans' son, Will Evans.

There is no specific damage request.

Lorillard officials have known that Will Evans was considering a lawsuit for at least two years, but company lawyer Andrew J. McElaney said the Greensboro, N.C., company would have no comment until the complaint is filed.

Only 14 out of hundreds of smoker lawsuits filed against tobacco companies in the past 50 years have prevailed, according to Northeastern University's Tobacco Products Liability Project, but the Evans lawsuit undermines the industry's standard argument against adult smokers that they were old enough to know better.

"I don't think any of the other lawsuits have focused on the issue of the deliberate campaign of handing out free samples to a child," said Edward L. Sweda Jr., senior staff attorney at the Northeastern center.

State law banned giving cigarettes to children even in the 1950s, but McIntyre said Lorillard was so eager to attract young smokers that it deliberately broke the law.

Will Evans said his mother became a lifelong smoker of Newport and struggled to quit even after she became ill.

Evans said his mother believed Lorillard's assurances that its products did not cause cancer, despite evidence to the contrary.

After she was diagnosed with cancer, she became angry at the way Lorillard seduced her into smoking, and she continued depositions in preparation for the lawsuit until the final weeks of her life.

Greg Connolly, the former director of the state's anti-smoking campaign, said Newport and other menthol cigarettes have been targeted to black youth, noting that more than half of black teenage smokers choose the Newport brand.

Norman Black, the creative director for the advertising agency that promoted Newport from 1974 to 1992, said his ad campaigns were geared toward young people, though not necessarily blacks, since they smoked Newport in large numbers anyway.

McIntyre said she has evidence that Lorillard tried to hook young smokers, including a 1963 memo from a top advertising executive to Lorillard's vice president that read, "There's nothing like starting them out young!"

Michael D. Weisman, who is also working on the Evans case, expects Lorillard to try "to bury us in paperwork," but he says it won't work.

"They set out to addict a child, addicted her and then killed her," he said. "We will have a trial."

## Ohio threatens to sue over nuclear waste transfer

CINCINNATI — Ohio's attorney general said Friday he will sue the U.S. Energy Department if it attempts to remove radioactive waste from a former uranium processing plant without drawing up a plan to store the waste permanently.

The state of Nevada has threatened to sue the Energy Department to block its plan to ship the silo waste by truck from this year through 2006 to the department's Nevada desert site. With that plan in limbo, Ohio officials fear the waste will be removed from the silos only to be temporarily stored elsewhere at the Fernald site, which for almost 40 years processed uranium for the production of nuclear weapons.

Ohio Attorney General Jim Petro said his state would object to temporary storage of the waste at Fernald, 18 miles northwest of Cincinnati, because it could create environmental and health risks.

Under a cleanup plan that environmental regulators reached with the Energy Department years ago, the waste now stored in three concrete silos would be removed for permanent disposal elsewhere, Petro noted in a letter sent Friday to the Energy Department. The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency and Attorney General John Ashcroft.

From The Associated Press



Democratic presidential candidate Sen. John Kerry rallies supporters as confetti falls following a rally at Perry High School in Massillon, Ohio, on Friday. Kerry made campaign stops in New York, California and Ohio in a 36-hour period.

## Democratic campaign goes bicoastal

### 36-hour tour includes N.Y., L.A.

BY NEDRA PICKLER  
The Associated Press

MASSILLON, Ohio — Comedian Billy Crystal teased John Kerry, "If you're having a good time, tell your face." But the down-looking Democrat had an excuse for looking drawn Friday after scheduling 36 hours of nearly nonstop campaigning on both coasts plus a Midwest stop.

Kerry's marathon itinerary included campaigning in down-and-out Stark County, Ohio, sandwiched between swanky fund-raisers in New York City and Los Angeles. The Los Angeles event was an A-list concert with artists such as Crystal, Barbara Streisand, Neil Diamond, Leonardo DiCaprio and Ben Affleck.

"Can we do this every night?" the presidential candidate said as the show wrapped up about 11 p.m. West coast time. "This is a great way to campaign."

Kerry was speaking two hours before he boarded his campaign charter for a four-hour redeye flight to Ohio, where he had to shrug off his fatigue to stump in the bellwether community that chose Republican George W. Bush four years ago.

"Will you do me a favor, help me get a better plane to sleep on come next November?" Kerry asked to laughter from the crowd of more than 2,000 gathered in a high school gymnasium.

Kerry then repeated a line he uttered minutes earlier about U.S. dependence on Middle East oil, drawing less vigorous applause than the first time.

After the rally, Kerry swung by the Pro Football Hall of Fame before he boarded his plane for the third time in 24 hours, this time to New York for a fund-raiser with lesbian, gay, transgendered and bisexual supporters at the Waldorf-Astoria hotel. Former Vermont Governor Howard Dean warmed up the donors as they waited by telling them he's going

to work his tail off for Kerry. Except he didn't use the word "tail."

"All I can say is, if the vice president of the United States is using the F-bomb on the Senate floor, I can use the a-word at an LGBT gathering," Dean said to laughter and applause from the crowd. They donated \$1.8 million, split evenly between Kerry's campaign and the Democratic National Committee.

Kerry also joked about Dick Cheney's use of an epithet. "If you think Dick Cheney is cursing today, wait until you hear what he says on Nov. 2," Kerry told the donors.

Less than three hours after Kerry arrived in New York, he was boarding the plane for a flight to his home in Washington and an end to his day-and-a-half tour.

He began Thursday morning in San Jose, Calif., with a speech on creating high-tech jobs. He then flew to Long Beach, Calif., accompanied by Arizona Gov. Janet Napolitano, who has been suggested as a possible running mate.

Kerry spokeswoman Stephanie Cutter said Kerry and Napolitano didn't discuss the vice presidency. But Kerry's running mate search coordinator, Jim Johnson, met recently with Gov. Bill Richardson of New Mexico to discuss the vice presidential search, according to a Democratic official familiar with the conversation.

The official said Kerry himself has not yet interviewed Richardson. He then traveled to the Dorothy Chandler Pavilion in Los Angeles to find a glitzy crowd of 450 that included his own entertainment dining on shrimp and filet mignon.

Kerry then rushed across the street to the Walt Disney Concert Hall, where he was lauded by the Hollywood lineup. Crystal called the event, which raised \$5 million for Kerry's campaign and the Democratic National Committee, "Woodstock for really, really rich people."

## Schwarzenegger grants strays a stay

SACRAMENTO, Calif. — The hectoring barks of animal lovers convinced Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger to reverse himself Friday and keep California's law protecting stray dogs and cats at shelters.

"That's not me. I have three dogs. And of course I grew up with every animal you can think of," said Schwarzenegger, who credited his own daughter for convincing him to change his mind. "I'm an animal lover."

Schwarzenegger's about-face came a day after animal rights groups began besieging the Capitol upon learning that the governor wanted to cut

back a six-day holding period for animals at shelters. To save \$14 million, the governor had proposed allowing dogs and cats to be euthanized within 72 hours.

Former state Sen. Tom Hayden, who wrote the law for dogs, cats, birds, rabbits, turtles, potbellied pigs and others trapped at shelters, said if the governor is good to his word, he will call off the dogs.

The law requires shelters to hold animals for a minimum of six business days; four days if they stay open on weekends or one night a week. The act also forces people convicted of animal cruelty to pay for veterinary costs and remain pet-free for at least three years. And it requires animal shelters to look for adoption homes.

From The Los Angeles Times

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# Man's tiny circus pays homage to history

BY LAURA WALSH  
The Associated Press

BRIDGEPORT, Conn. — The teeny display at the Barnum Museum tells a feel-good story of old circus days, when clowns and trapeze girls had the power to draw crowds to the street, and even close school.

In the early 20th century, people cheered as the fancy parade wagons slowly made their way downtown. Children clutched posters torn from barns that boasted of trained jungle animals, as they tried to sneak peeks at the "Bearded Girl" and the "Sword Swallower."

"When I was a kid, you looked forward to circus day, like you would Christmas or your birthday," said William R. Brinley, 86, of Meriden. "It was a big deal."

A circus fan ever since his first show in 1926, Brinley has designed a miniature circus that features more than 5,000 carved figures and circus equipment. It spans 1,100 square feet, a world in which 1/4-inch equals 1 foot.

Complete with five rings and two stages, the display — a replica of a 1903 Barnum and Bailey tent circus — is made of just wood and cloth and took 36 years to put together. There's the 6-inch-tall ringmaster, tents (many from scraps of bed sheets) and plenty of cap clowns and hefty elephants.

But it's the slightest of details that makes this circus a testament to Brinley's own life. When he was a boy, Brinley snagged free tickets to all the circuses that rolled into his hometown of Wallingford by volunteering to do "just about anything they needed."

And it was there that Brinley, equipped with his Brownie camera, tape measurer and pad and pencil, preserved all the tricks of the trade.

For those who look closely enough, Brinley made sure to include an elongated bed for the "Tall Lad" in his Sidshow car.

Brinley's favorite part of the circus has always been the animals, and he pays tribute to the famous circus trainer and old friend Terrell Jacobs by painting his name on the lion and tiger cages.

Brinley met Jacobs, who worked for a variety of circuses, after a Ringling Bros. show in 1938 in Hartford. The two remained friends until Jacobs' death.

Authenticity is what makes circus modelers tick, said Marlin Weaver, vice president for Circus Model Builders Inc. The group, founded in 1936, has nearly 1,500 members across the country.

"Everybody's crazy about something. We just happen to be crazy about circuses," said Weaver, of Palm Harbor, Fla. "It's just a little bit of history that you will never see again."



William R. Brinley, 86, poses with a section of the miniature circus that he has constructed at the Barnum Museum in Bridgeport, Conn., earlier this month. The circus is a replica of a 1903 Barnum & Bailey tent circus with more than 5,000 hand-carved figures.



Rapper DMX leaves the Queens County Courthouse in New York following his arraignment on Friday. Prosecutors filed additional charges Friday against him a day after he was arrested for allegedly impersonating a federal agent.

## Drug, weapons charges added against rapper

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — Prosecutors filed drug and weapons charges Friday against rapper-actor DMX, a day after he was arrested for allegedly impersonating a federal agent and harassing another man in an airport parking lot.

DMX, 33, allegedly crashed his sport-utility vehicle, which prosecutors said was equipped with lights and sirens, through a parking lot gate at Kennedy Airport after telling the attendant to let him leave because he was a government agent.

The complaint also said that the rapper, whose real name is Earl Simmons, ordered a driver at an adjacent parking lot to get out of his vehicle. When the man refused, Simmons allegedly identified himself as an FBI agent, grabbed the driver's seat belt buckle, and tried to pull him from the vehicle.

Simmons, 33, and a friend, Jackie Hudgins, 41, were arrested shortly afterward, said prosecutor Michael Brown.

Police found a billy club and rocks of crack cocaine in the vehicle, Brown said.

According to court documents, Simmons claimed he had been cut off by the other car. Hudgins said he had tried to calm Simmons down, and that if he had paid the \$9 parking fee the incident would not have happened.

Hudgins said he had given Simmons the \$9 to pay the fee, court documents said. Prosecutors said that when Simmons was taken into custody, he had hundreds of dollars of cash on him.

Both men were charged with criminal possession of a weapon and controlled substance. Simmons is also charged with criminal mischief, impersonation, menacing, driving under the influence and other offenses. He was also charged with endangering the welfare of a child because the driver's 13-year-old daughter was in the car at the time.

The men, who remained jailed Friday, face up to seven years in prison if convicted. Simmons and Hudgins were arraigned in Queens Criminal Court late Friday before Judge Stephen Knopf, who set bail of \$15,000. They were scheduled to return to court on July 23.

## Fire strands people in Alaska town

BY RACHEL D'ORO  
The Associated Press

ANCHORAGE, Alaska — A 90-mile stretch of the Taylor Highway southeast of Fairbanks near the Canada border remained closed Friday because of wildfires, but fire managers were hoping for an opportunity to escort more stranded travelers from the tiny community of Chicken.

Officials were anxious to move people out, given a weekend forecast for more of the hot, dry weather that's fueled fires all week. There's also the potential for lightning, said Kevin Koehn, fire information officer for the state Division of Forestry.

About half of the 200 people stuck in the old mining community were led in a convoy to Tok, about 70 miles to the southwest, early Friday when fire activity was diminished by cooler temperatures and higher humidity. About 50 RVs and 10 motorcycles were among the 70 vehicles in the caravan, Koehn said.

Another convoy carried fuel, food and water to Chicken on Friday afternoon as fires burned on both sides of the highway. If conditions cleared enough, part of the convoy was to continue another 94 miles to Eagle, a town of 126 also near the Canada border where a 10,000-acre fire was burning nearby.

"That whole area is just soaked in by smoke between that fire and fires in Canada," Koehn said.

Three other fires prompted the closure of the Taylor Highway on Thursday on both sides of Chicken, an unincorporated town of 21.

The north flank of a 33,000-acre fire was about one mile south of Chicken. Closer to Tok, another fire was estimated at 15,000 acres. A fire about six miles east of Chicken was growing, but the number of acres was not available because it was too smoky to map.

Altogether, 52 fires were active across the state Friday. Fires have burned more than 350,000 acres in Alaska this year, fire officials said.

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## That's just art

**TX** AMARILLO — If you're riding through a wheat field and come across some vintage Cadillacs planted in the ground, don't call for help. It's an art installation, not a car crash.

The old Caddys have been adorned with new coats of paint and graffiti for the 30th anniversary of what started as a three-dimensional environmental sculpture along Interstate 40.

The Cadillacs were painted white for Monday's celebration. Amarillo businessman and art patron Stanley Marsh was the first to spray paint one of the newly coated Caddys.

The Ant Farm, a radical art and design collective, created and installed the landmark in 1974 for Marsh.

## Odd incidents on campus

**NC** RALEIGH — Four men, including three students at North Carolina State University, have been charged with illegally accessing the computers of campus police and changing the daily list of incidents.

Former student David Travis Oakley, 25, of Willow Spring, was in the Wake County jail with bond set at \$25,000. He located a password, "a secure area" and passed it to others, according to his arrest warrant.

Jonathan Lee Hamilton, 23, of Raleigh, and Nicholas John Heeling, 19, of Nashville, were also arrested. NCSU police spokesman Jon Barnwell said. Hamilton was released after posting \$5,000 bail.

Gavin Deare, 19, of Fairfax, Va., had arranged to surrender, Barnwell said.

A member of the media alerted campus police to the bogus postings, which appeared May 15, he said.

## Alternatives to force

**CO** DENVER — Police will write their policies, emphasizing alternatives to using force against suspects after an officer fatally shot a developmentally disabled teen last year. A task force made recommendations that will be enacted immediately.

## Low quality of care

**IO** DES MOINES — A state agency that oversees nursing homes is finding more complaints about the quality of care. A report shows that in 2003, the office received 977 complaints.

That's double the number of complaints in 2001, and a 19 percent increase from 2002.

## Fatal hit-and-run

**NY** NORTHPORT — An emergency medical technician responding to a fatal hit-and-run accident told police at the scene he might have struck the victim the night before.

Brian Leddy, a captain with the Eatons Neck volunteer fire department on Long Island, was arrested Friday after both he and officers reported that debris in the road matched his 2003 Dodge truck, police said.

The victim, identified as Thomas Cote, 60, was found at the end of



## AMERICAN ROUNDUP

his driveway. Police said Cote was apparently hit while getting mail from his mailbox.

## Toxic Hawaii

**HI** HONOLULU — The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency says a slight increase has been reported in the amount of toxic chemicals released in Hawaii in 2002.

The EPA said in a news release issued in San Francisco that reportable releases increased by 2 percent over the previous year.

The hike was primarily due to an increase in reporting from federal facilities and electric generating facilities, the agency said.

Thirty-nine facilities in Hawaii reported 3.2 million pounds of toxic chemical releases, ranking the state 49th in total releases nationwide.

## Far from home

**WA** SEATTLE — An Arctic fox that apparently survived on garbage for two weeks after becoming an inadvertent stowaway on a ship will go to a zoo, officials say.

The beluga brown fox is believed to have boarded the ship during a port stop in the Aleutian Islands. An employee found the animal in the vessel's trash bin after it arrived at a shipyard last month.



## Nice, even strokes

**Chris Van Dyke, left, and Charles Scott team up to paint the side of a house in Martinsburg, W.Va. The two are part of a group of Berkeley County, W.Va., school teachers who are spending the summer painting houses for extra income.**

"The first thing I thought was, 'Boy, he's been in here awhile,'" said Cooter Whitaker, a Samson Tag and Barge terminal manager.

Woodland Park Zoo curator Dana Payne said the animal will be the zoo's first arctic fox. About 45 of the animals are found in North American zoos, she said.

It has been quarantined to determine if it has rabies, but could make its public debut by Labor Day.

## Lawn cars stay put

**KY** WHITESBURG — A proposal in Letcher County to ban junk cars on residents' lawns was voted down by magistrates after citizens complained. The ordinance was intended to make the mountain community safer for neighbors and more attractive to tourists.

## Easy access to records

**TX** AUSTIN — It's now easier for Texans to get their driving records.

Copies of driving records are now available online, the Department of Public Safety announced Thursday.

The new service allows eligible driver license and commercial driver license holders to order a driver record using a credit or debit card, the DPS said.

Information from the applicant's current Texas driver's license is needed to use the online service.

## GI's sole request

**PA** ABBOTTSTOWN — An Adams County woman has been visiting countless yard sales to fill an unusual need for her nephew in Iraq.

Dottie Stonesifer, of Abbottstown, said her nephew, 1st Lt. Eric Sloan, a Pennsylvania National Guard member from the Reading area, doesn't ask for cookies in his e-mails since he was sent to Iraq in February.

Sloan's main request is for shoes, preferably sandals, for hundreds of children he sees walking barefoot through the rubble in temperatures topping 100 degrees.

Stonesifer has collected nearly 100 pairs of shoes — three boxes of sandals and sneakers, but at nearly \$50 a box, the problem is finding money to mail them.

## Conviction overturned

**IL** LINCOLN — A woman whose murder conviction was overturned by the Illinois Supreme Court was released from prison after 13 years behind bars.

Elizabeth Ehler's release comes months after she was diagnosed with lung cancer and years since she originally claimed her innocence in the death of her newborn daughter, but in a phone interview two hours after her release she said she has few regrets about her time in prison.

Ehler, 45, was charged with murder in 1990 after her infant's body was found in a lake two days after she gave birth at home. She claimed the baby was stillborn but was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to 30 years in prison.



## What a rush

**William Schwieder hits a pool of water on Meadow Run in Ohioople State Park, south of Uniontown, Penn., while visiting the natural water slides.**



## Feeding frenzy

**Five white geese rush to find morsels of food as a lone carp struggles to get his share at Goose Harbor Marina along the Arkansas River in Van Buren, Ark.**



## Pucker up

**Marbles King Aaron Nees, 13, of Palisade, Colo., leans in to kiss Marbles Queen Carly Miller, 12, of Pittsburgh, following their wins at the 81st annual National Marbles Tournament in Wildwood, N.J.**





**My, what big teeth you have** A man talks to the jaws of a prehistoric shark during "Dinosaurs and other Prehistoric Creatures at Auction," assembled by Guernsey's auction house in New York.

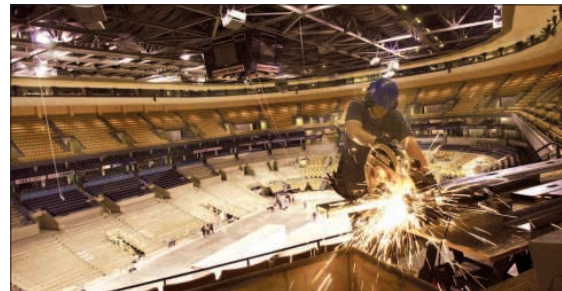


**Little wet around the ankles** A passenger wades across Market Street in Galveston, Texas, to board an Island Transit bus.



### Flyin' high-five

Reece Treher, 6, springs into action to give his coach, John Cheney, a high-five during football camp at Marian High School in Mishawaka, Ind.



**Sparking progress** A construction worker creates sparks while cutting through steel on the seventh level of the FleetCenter in Boston as work continues to transform the 19,600-seat sports arena into a convention hall for the upcoming Democratic National Convention

### Blue about insurance

**ID** POCATELLO — Fourteen counties are suing BlueCross and BlueShield for allegedly trying to run the counties' self-insurance program out of business. BlueCross and BlueShield deny the allegations. The counties say the Blues want to resume charging excessive premiums.

### Just one murder

**MA** BOSTON — Martin Guy, who is serving a life sentence for the 1999 murder of Christopher Payne, pleaded innocent to another killing. Guy was indicted last week for the 1998 murder of Irene Kennedy, 75, after his DNA matched material on her body.

### Police beating payoff

**MN** MINNEAPOLIS — The city will pay nearly \$1 million to Michael Polley who lost his colon and part of his small intestine after he claims he was beaten by police. Two police officers arrested Polley during a domestic dispute at his home in March 2003.

### Tuition increase

**TN** KNOXVILLE, Tenn. — The University of Tennessee approved a 7.9 percent tuition increase, marking the seventh straight year that the cost of attendance has gone up. President John Peterson said further increases may be needed to maintain a quality education.

### Stone thief charged again

**NY** DELHI — A New York City millionaire serving prison time for stealing century-old capstones from historic stone walls, cemeteries and church sidewalks has pleaded guilty to additional charges.

Stanton M. Cagney, 59, admitted in Delaware County Court to also stealing fieldstones valued around \$3,000 from numerous sites in 2001 and 2002.

Cagney told Judge Carl Becker he stole the fieldstones to line his trout pond. Becker sentenced Cagney to an additional two to four years in prison. That sentence will run concurrently with the three-to-six-years he is serving for the capstone thefts.

### KKK complaint

**FL** OCALA — A black school bus driver filed a complaint with authorities after seeing two children dressed in Ku Klux Klan robes and carrying a cross at one of her stops.

Claudette Johnson told the Marion County Sheriff's Office that she spotted the pair among a group of students waiting for the bus. Johnson made eye contact with the two as the other students boarded her bus, but said the robbed students did not speak.

The children in robes then crossed the street and handed the cross to another child, who dragged the cross away, the complaint said.

### Needle assault

**TX** TYLER — A man who stabbed two police officers with a methamphetamine-filled needle during a scuffle has been sentenced to life in prison.

Shane Ray Dykes, 29, pleaded guilty to two counts of aggravated assault on a police officer with a deadly weapon. He was sentenced to two life sentences that will be served concurrently.

Dykes, who is 6-foot-4 and weighs 280 pounds, stabbed officers Steve Black and Dale Feunay in December while four officers were trying to subdue him.

Officers had confronted him after responding to a call of a suspicious vehicle idling behind a movie theater. Dykes tried to flee, but the officers hung from his pickup's doors and managed to stop the truck. Dykes then got out and stabbed the officers in the hand, according to police.

### Coors and drinking age

**CO** DENVER — Republican Senate candidate and brewery magnate Peter Coors has reiterated his support for lowering the drinking age to 18, saying that young people drink anyway and the government has made them criminals.

During a debate with primary opponent Bob Schaffer on, Coors didn't back down from remarks he made several years ago in support of lowering the drinking age from 21. Coors said it could help teenagers learn to drink responsibly.

### Spared, with life in prison

**OH** CLEVELAND — A man convicted of killing two people was spared the death penalty in a case that was filmed from start to finish for a documentary — including jury deliberations.

Juries recommended that Mark Ducic, 47, serve life in prison for killing his ex-girlfriend and friend. The same jury convicted him earlier of killing the two with drug overdoses.

Cuyahoga County Judge Nancy McDonnell sentenced Ducic to back-to-back life terms without possibility of parole.

Ducic thanked the jury for sparing his life but insisted that he did not kill Barbara Davis, 41, and Donald Ehrke, 44. He said the overdoses were self-inflicted.

### Seattle monorail idling

**WA** SEATTLE — The city's fire-damaged monorail is likely to remain closed through the summer tourist season, officials said, and some downtown merchants said it's hurting business.

Fire Marshal John H. Nelsen said that operation of the one-mile elevated line between downtown and the Seattle Center can resume only after a fire investigation is completed and at least one of the two trains gets a safety retrofit.

The line has been shut down since May 31, when a small fire stranded about 100 riders. The fire is believed to have started from an electrical spark. There were no serious injuries.

The Monorail, built for the 1962 World's Fair can draw as many as 23,000 riders a day.

At Westlake Center, a shopping complex at one end of the line, merchants say they have felt the shutdown in their tills.

One merchant put Monorail-related losses at more than 20 percent.

Photos and stories from The Associated Press

## IN THE WORLD

## Bush gets EU to back NATO role in Iraq security

By TERENCE HUNT  
The Associated Press

**NEWMARKET-ON-FERGUS, Ireland** — The United States and the European Union offered strong support for Iraq's urgent request for NATO military help Saturday. "NATO has the capability and I believe the responsibility to help the Iraqi people defeat the terrorist threat that is facing their country," President Bush said.

"I think the bitter differences of the war are over," Bush said at the close of a U.S.-European Union summit. "There is a common interest and a common goal to help the Iraqi people."

The United States and the European Union agreed in a joint statement to back Iraq's request for NATO military and support the training of Iraqi security forces, and to reduce Iraq's international debt, estimated to be \$120 billion. Diplomats said late Saturday that NATO nations have reached a tentative agreement on plans to help train Iraq's armed forces.

But the joint statement also made a veiled criticism of abuse of prisoners by American soldiers.

We stress the need for full respect of the Geneva Conventions," the statement said, referring to international accords setting out guidelines for the humane treat-

ment of prisoners. The single sentence was an unstated but obvious reference to the Abu Ghraib prison scandal and the treatment of detainees at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

EU leaders raised the topic with Bush in their private meetings Saturday, and also aired it publicly during a joint news conference.

"These things unfortunately happened, and of course we wish they didn't. But they do," Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern said. "What's important is how they're dealt with."

Bush said, "It did harm. It did harm." But he said the American investigations will be done openly, as opposed to the secrecy of Saddam Hussein's atrocities. "I don't remember any international investigation of what took place in Iraq" under Saddam, Bush said.

Bush also described the threat posed by Jordanian-born militant Abu Musab al-Zarqawi, who has been linked to al-Qaida and is thought to be responsible for hundreds of deaths in Iraq. "He is a problem because he is willing to kill innocent people," the president said.

The U.S.-EU joint statements were largely a victory for Bush, attending the first of two summits over five days. They sent him on to the NATO summit beginning Sun-



President Bush, with Irish Foreign Minister Brian Cowen, right, walk to Air Force One at Shannon Airport in western Ireland on Saturday before the president's departure. Bush is flying to a NATO meeting in Turkey following a two-day EU-U.S. summit in Dromoland Castle in County Clare, Ireland.

day in Turkey with progress in hand. Nineteen of NATO's 26 members are in the EU, so the union's pledge of support could help sway NATO members at their gathering.

Iraqi prime minister Iyad Alawi sent a note to NATO this week pleading for "urgent help" from the alliance to build up Iraqi forces "to defeat the terrorist threat and reduce reliance on foreign forces."

The news conference was held inside a 16th-century castle that was heavily guarded against security threats and from the thousands of demonstrators protesting Bush's policies in Iraq.

At Bush's next stop, in Ankara, Turkey, police fired tear gas canisters as more than 100 left-wing demonstrators hurled rocks and used sticks to try to break down a police barricade during a protest against Bush's arrival.

The EU statement encouraged other international organizations — such as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and others — to support Iraq's economic and political reconstruction, focusing on projects identified by the interim government.

The United States and 25-nation EU pledged to help reduce Iraq's estimated \$120 billion foreign

debt. In other declarations and statements issued at the close of the brief summit, the United States and EU agreed to:

- Better combat terrorism by sharing data on lost and stolen passports, work more closely on hunting down terrorist financing networks and increasing cooperation between law enforcement agencies on both sides of the Atlantic.

- Expand cooperation to prevent the spread of weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems.

- Back continued peace talks to end 20 years of civil conflict in southern Sudan, and advance efforts being made by the United Nations to bring peace to all Sudan and address humanitarian and human rights crises in Darfur in western Sudan.

On the economic side, the United States and the EU signed an agreement Saturday to make the EU's planned satellite navigation system compatible with the existing U.S. Global Positioning System.

Bush also the EU to offer membership to Turkey, a key U.S. ally in the war against terror.

About 5,000 protesters traveled by bus Saturday from all over Ireland and marched to barred wire barricades set up a few miles from the castle. No arrests were reported.

"George Bush, No 1 terrorist," chanted the crowd. One group of demonstrators held a white coffin to symbolize Iraqi civilians killed in the war.

About 400 police officers and 2,000 soldiers — more than one-third of the security forces in the Irish Republic — were deployed to protect Bush. Weekend protests were expected in several European cities.

## Messages of Support

★ I don't really know if this war is right or wrong (there's a lot of good reason to support both), but I have the maximum respect and admiration for all the soldiers (American, British, Australian etc.) and for what they are doing. So, if someone in my country (Italy) criticize you, I must believe that I will "fight" to defend your honour. Marco

★ I wish you great success and well being in Operation Iraqi Freedom. You make me proud to be an American and former Marine. God bless, Semper Fidelis! "Tank" Rotunno

## U.N. takes over Haiti peacekeeping as Air France's director fatally shot

By AMY BRACKEN  
The Associated Press

**PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti** — The United Nations took command of a peacekeeping mission Friday, relieving a U.S.-led force a day after Air France's director in the country was shot and killed.

The death of Didier Morset was the latest in a rash of violence that poses a major challenge to the U.N. force that will help Haiti's U.S.-backed interim leaders stabilize the nation after former president Jean-Bertrand Aristide was pushed from power on Feb. 29.

Morset, 49, was riding in a car with his wife and a chauffeur when gunmen on a motorcycle opened fire, hitting him twice, said French Embassy spokesman Eric Bosc. The other two were unharmed.

Amnesty International condemned the killing, saying that U.S. troops and Haitian leaders had failed to disarm violent groups.

"The availability of weapons and the climate of impunity continue to fuel insecurity and human rights violations in Haiti, as measures to stop this are nowhere to be seen," the London-based human rights group said in a statement.

Although the official transfer was earlier this month, U.N. troops assumed command Friday from a 3,600-member U.S.-led multinational force that included France, Canada and Chile. Most of the American troops had departed Haiti by Friday night.

A Brazilian-led force of an estimated 6,700 troops and more than 1,000 international police will work with the interim government for six months to prepare the country for elections next year and train the police.

The country is still struggling to rebuild the police force after many pro-Aristide officers fled their posts during the rebellion.

"One gets the impression that someone somewhere is planning, organizing and carrying out this climate of insecurity," interim Prime Minister Gerard Latortue said at the handover ceremony.

"Today we need the support and the understanding of all our friends in the international community."

U.S. Marine Brig. Gen. Ronald Coleman, who led the three-month U.S.-led mission, said the six-month U.N. mandate was too short.

"I think this is the time for the international community to give Haitians a chance," he said. "That means a long-term commitment."

The Brazilian commander for the U.N. mission, Lt. Gen. Augusto Heleno, said he expected the mission's greatest challenge to be to disarm the groups that helped out Aristide.

"It is a long-term mission," he said, and one that depends on "the Haitian police, the Haitian authorities, and the support of the Haitian people."



**Reader's Digest wants to find out which military service is the funniest.**

The monthly magazine is celebrating the 50th anniversary of its "Humor in Uniform" column by running a contest to find the most humorous true stories from military life. Active-duty, Reserve and retired servicemembers and their families can participate.

Entries must be submitted to [www.rd.com/starstrips](http://www.rd.com/starstrips) by June 30. They also can be mailed to: "The Funniest Branch of the Military Contest," Reader's Digest, P.O. Box 1598, Newburgh, NY 12550.

Entries must include the entrant's full name, e-mail address and street address. Anecdotes should be no more than 100 words, true, original and related to the armed services.

The magazine's editors will select finalists from each service to appear in the September edition. Readers will then be asked to log on to [www.rd.com](http://www.rd.com) to choose their favorite, and their votes will determine the winner.

The winner will receive an all-expense-paid trip for two to St. Kitts Marriott & Royal Beach Casino in the Caribbean. The other four finalists will receive \$500. All winners will receive \$500. All winners will receive \$500.









# OPINION

## What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other statewide syndicates.

### Follow through on Afghanistan The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

Hamid Karzai visited Washington this month, staying just long enough to allow President Bush to showcase the popular Afghan president as the face of what Bush calls a major U.S. success in the war on terrorism. But that picture is distorted.

Karzai thanked America again for ousting the Taliban regime, depriving al-Qaida of a base of operations and putting Afghanistan on the path to self-government. But he also cited some unpleasant truths — for example, that the country has the world's second-highest infant and maternal mortality rates and desperate needs aid and investment.

But if the past is a guide, \$4.4 billion in reconstruction funds pledged by donors nations in March will be slow to arrive. ... Yet the prime victims are the Afghan people, who deserve better.

Caught between self-serving regional warlords, a resurgent guerrilla force and foreign donors who deliver less than they promise, Hamid Karzai is forced to make compromises — and to gloss over painful realities to obtain what he can. But failure to provide aid and security would betray Afghans and those Americans who fought and died for them. As in Iraq, Bush is either focused too narrowly on his own interests or still thinks nation-building can be done on the cheap, with the help of a few photo-ops. It can't.

### Conditions favor redeployment The Buffalo (N.Y.) News

Details are lacking, but the Pentagon's plan to redeploy forces now stationed in former hot spots from the Cold War is at least sensible and possibly urgent.

Thousands of troops have been stationed in Germany since the end of World War II, first to stabilize the broken country, then as a strategic counter to the expansionist aims of the Soviet Union. But this quiet United does not exist anymore.

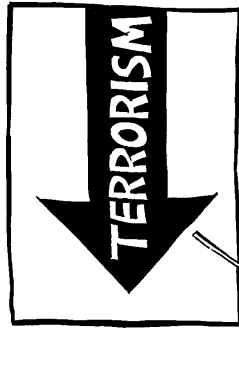
By the same token, the decision to cut the number of U.S. troops in South Korea by a third — about 12,000 — is an affirmation of the reality that Seoul's forces are now capable, with the help of American air power, of defending the country.

The threat the United States and its Western allies face today is more likely to come from the Middle East or Central Asia. If the nation is to station forces in foreign lands, it should be based on existing conditions, not a memory of decades gone by. ...

If the nation has fewer troops than necessary to do the job in Iraq, part of the reason is that we still have them in Germany and South Korea, as well as Japan. ... With the World Trade Center obliterated and the World Trade Center gallery, it's time to see how troops in Germany and South Korea serve the nation's needs in the 21st century.

### Get to heart of pledge suit The Courier, Findlay, Ohio

The Supreme Court copped out. Rather than taking the opportunity to rule, once and for all, on the constitutionality of the phrase "under God" in the Pledge of Allegiance, the court (this month) took a pass. It instead ruled 5-3 that the plaintiff, atheist Michael Newdow, is not qualified to represent his daughter because he lacks full custody.



The court's decision leaves the schools free to continue to recite the pledge, including the disputed phrase "under God." But for how long? Is it a near certainty that sooner or later, Newdow or somebody else will try again.

The court lost an opportunity to affirm the right of all Americans to acknowledge God in public — if they so choose.

### Haste makes waste disappair The State, (Columbia, S.C.)

Whatever happens on the munitions and energy front, one thing cannot be denied: A national, long-term examination leads to the inescapable conclusion that [the] Savannah River Site is not the best long-term repository for any of our nation's high-level radioactive waste.

SRS is dangerously close to natural resources that make it a poor choice for permanent waste storage. It is near important water sources, the Tuscaloosa aquifer and the Savannah River. The site sits at the edge of a seismic fault, and the threat of future earthquakes along this fault is real. Populated areas, including Aiken and Augusta (Ga.), are nearby. Meanwhile, 37 million gallons of high-level radioactive waste remain housed in aging tanks at SRS.

For more than 20 years, national law has specified that the waste will be solidified and moved to a permanent, deep geologic repository. However, politics, the high cost and some interest group objections have blocked the opening of such a facility at Yucca Mountain in Nevada. ...

We call upon Congress and the U.S. Department of Energy to move ahead with the funding and authorizations necessary to begin the process of solidifying and moving high-level radioactive waste to Yucca Mountain. ... It is long past time, for the good of our entire nation, to get moving on the process of constructing and operating a permanent, national disposal site.

### Faulty incident reports typical Dayton (Ohio) Daily News

The U.S. State Department put out a report a couple of months ago ... that the number of terrorist incidents has dropped steadily from 2001 through 2003, reaching a 34-year low.

Recently, however, Secretary of State Colin Powell has admitted that the report was wrong.

The State Department left entire coun-

tries out of its count; it gave special weight to terrorist acts that resulted in no deaths, injuries or major property damage, and it discontinued its 2003 count two months before the end of year.

Normally, in situations like this, somebody calls for an investigation into how the foul-up happened.

However, given the quality of the Bush administration's other information-gathering and analytical exercises lately, maybe there's no point.

### Taking on a 'Life' of its own The Anniston (Ala.) Star

If the weeklong memorial leading up to the funeral of former President Reagan marked a return to the '80s, then the rush of news and comment in recent and coming days over the release of former President Clinton's memoir represents a return to the '90s. With that return comes a resurgence of all the familiar debates.

Among some there'll be a return of adoration for the man and his progressive, forward-looking policies, most notably an economic revival. Among others there'll be scorn cast from those who continue to blame Clinton for everything from a loss of American "values" to the terrorist attacks of Sept. 11. ...

Notably, unlike other recent presidential memoirists, Clinton himself is believed to have written the first draft of the memoir in longhand. The result is a publishing phenomenon likely to have repercussions on everything from the Iraqi occupation, to the war on terrorism to the upcoming presidential election.

At more than 900 pages, "My Life" is not what typically comes to mind as a "beach read." Yet given the subject and the wide range of emotions it causes, it could certainly become one.

### Students owed help with debt Star Tribune, Minneapolis

If a college education hasn't already turned this year's grads into cynics, Congress is considering a proposal that should do the trick: Just as student loan interest rates hit an all-time low, key lawmakers want to deny new graduates the opportunity to lock in today's low rates through loan consolidation.

Instead, leading Republicans and a few Democrats on the House Committee on Education and the Workforce propose that federally guaranteed student loans be consolidated only on a variable-rate basis. ...

WAY DOWN.  
TERRORISM  
IS GOING  
SEE?

Making the grads pay more would be in keeping with the last quarter-century's U.S. policy trend in higher education financing.

As a result, debt has become the American way to pay for college. ...

Whether the real goal is more money for the military, the lenders or needy college students, the way to get it should not be to add to the repayment cost of student loans. Congress had it right in 1986: The nation has an interest in helping recent college grads establish their careers. Loan consolidations fixed at today's low rate levels will give those careers important financial breathing room. Providing that opportunity is the least the federal government should do for debt-burdened college students.

### Atta spoke, and chaos reigned Press & Sun-Bulletin, Binghamton, N.Y.

We finally heard his voice. It was difficult to not be chilled by the words of Mohamed Atta on the tape [recently] played before the Sept. 11 commission. The words were cold and deceitful; his tone was deceptively calm. What would you expect from such a monster? The dramatic denouement of the commission's public testimony gave a clearer picture of the chaos and misjudgments made in the air that day. Tapes and testimony reinforced the fact that responsibility for preventing the awful events of Sept. 11, 2001, cannot be placed on one back, but many.

There were the air traffic controllers who misunderstood messages. There was the FAA worker who, when pressed by the national Air Traffic Control System Command Center for an order to scramble fighter jets at United Flight 93 over Pennsylvania, replied, "Uh, I know everybody just left the room." [This month's] testimony showed how weak our intra-agency emergency plans were for sky defense. Today, NORAD pilots make daily tests and dry runs of Sept. 11-like scenarios. That's at least one positive step. ...

The commission's report will surely contain some political bombshells. We must be quick to clear away the smoke from these and seize the opportunity to glean as much knowledge as we can from this horrific experience. Sadly, as the family of Paul Johnson now knows, al-Qaida's war against us didn't end on Sept. 11.

THE  
EAGLES

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## Sunday Horoscope

Cancer and Scorpio aspects are stirring the pot of our emotions.

Passionate feelings intensify further under the Scorpio moon — what are you waiting for? Capricorn! Swift action is deliciously romantic.

There are two days left of Venus' retrograde station. Look into a relationship's future, and make a goal. Negatives will soon be forgotten.

### TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(June 27). This year brings emotional sunshine as you polish up your personal life and your career into something that feels authentic to you. Take a break this summer. July getaways are lucky. New love in August wants to make you part of the family quickly. Moves out of town are best in September. Romance with Capricorn or Pisces is strong.

### ARIES (May 21-April 19)

You feel fabulous! Socializing provides you the opportunity to learn from someone who's done what you want to add to your week of experience. A broad view of the world makes you attractive to a wider variety of people.

### TAURUS (Apr. 20-May 20)

You are wildly attractive and have more power in relationships than you know what to do with. Put ideas in writing. Ask trusted friends for the emotional support you need, instead of bringing old baggage to a new relationship.

### GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

You are lucky in love when you have no preconceived notions. Try not to divide people into types. Enjoy an old hobby with someone younger than you. Unexpected or late guests are featured.

### CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Catch up with friends. Going too long without touching base will cause you to miss some of the fun! Relationship success is easy. All you have to do is be good to your word and call when you say you're going to call.

### LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)

You're a whiz when it comes to healing the world, but beware: A quick fix only solves a problem temporarily; strive for a more permanent solution. Finances may force a practical

decision that is hard for you. Be brave.

### VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You may feel out of sync with your normal patterns today, but this can be extremely creative. A childish nature emerges that tempts you away from anything that looks too serious. Why not? You deserve to be entertained.

### LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

Intrigue and surprise expressed. An admirer finally makes his or her feelings known to you — had an inkling, but it's exciting to hear it straight from the horse's mouth. Family relations improve with a little more distance.

### SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

You'll wake up early, excited to meet what the day has in store. (If not, it's time to relax on how you can structure your life to include more adventure, wonder and enjoyment.) Dinner conversation will be enlightening.

### SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

A shortcut to happiness is featured, if you have the guts to take it. This includes coming clean about something you've hidden for a while now. Persist in special projects even when they become difficult. Tenacity wins out.

### CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Because you have such a difficult time allowing yourself to relax and — gasp — do nothing, time off is hard to come by. Use it to yourself. Let nothing make you feel guilty.

Surround yourself with fun-loving souls.

### AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

Health and glamour are on your mind.

One consistent habit added to your repertoire will help you look and feel your best. Write out your goals, and you'll be in an elite group of winners. Love comes from new friendships.

### PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

Delegate the tasks for which you don't feel a passion or that don't challenge you. You'll learn something you never knew about a loved one. You have a responsibility to use that knowledge to support instead of tear down.

Creators Syndicate

### Joyce Jilison



## After divorce, ex-husband latching onto her family

**Dear Abby:** I have been divorced for almost a year. It was an ugly divorce that became long, drawn-out and expensive. I have moved on with my life. My ex-husband, however, has not. He is in constant contact with my family.

My sister casually explained to me one day that he had stopped by her office to "talk." He also calls my mother regularly and stops by her house to see her. He takes them to dinner and tries to act like nothing changed.

What he is really doing is getting information about my life while getting sympathy from them.

The final straw was learning that he had been invited to my nephew's graduation. I have explained to my family that I want no more contact with him and do not want to see him again. He told vicious lies and spread horrible rumors during the divorce that cost me all of our mutual friends. They all believed his lies and did not support me. We had no children, so I see no reason to stay in contact. He won't let go of me and my family. What can I do?

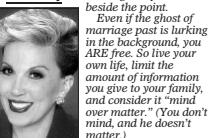
**Wants to be Free in Illinois**

Dear Abby: I would like to be free in Illinois. It would be interesting to know

why your family has continued to make him welcome. Are they enjoying the attention? The drama? Whatever the tie that binds them, it is out of your control. And whether he is clinging to them out of neediness or the pleasure of sticking it to you is beside the point.

Even if the ghost of marriage past is lurking in the background, you ARE free. So live your own life, limit the amount of information you give to your family, and consider it "mind over matter." (You don't mind, and he doesn't matter.)

### Dear Abby



**Dear Abby:** I have a sticky situation at work. One of the men I work with, "Josh," likes to brag about all his sexual conquests. One of the things he brags about is "Pamela," another of my co-workers.

I don't think he's telling the truth because she is happily married. Should I tell her he's spreading rumors about her, or should I mind my own business? — **Wonder What He's Say About Me**

Dear Wonder: By all means, tell Pamela what Josh is saying. She has a right to know and to defend herself. What Josh considers a brag about his charm may be construed as slander by

her. And his harping on the topic of his sex life at the office could be considered sexual harassment. I won't stop you either, you or Pamela complains to a supervisor.

**Dear Abby:** I am planning a

30th birthday party for my husband. I would like to invite friends and family to join us for dinner at my husband's favorite restaurant.

Because I have a small budget to work from and he has a large family, I can afford to pay only for the husband and me.

Would it be OK to invite people to attend and ask them to pay for their own meal, and if so, how do I appropriately say that on the invitation?

— **Needs to Know**

in Frederick, MD

**Dear Needs to Know:** To invite people to a party and expect them to pay for their own meal is considered tacky. Since you can't afford to give your husband a party, instead invite your friends and his large family to your home after dinner to celebrate with dessert and coffee. That way you won't be criticized.

Letters for this column — with your name and address — should be addressed to Dear Abby, P.O. Box #6480, Los Angeles, CA 90068. Readers can e-mail to Abby on the internet at <http://www.uxpress.com/dearabby> or Universal Press Syndicate

## Woman seeing married man afraid he is cheating on her

**Dear Annie:** I have been seeing a married man for two years. When we first got together, "Boyd" told me the spark in his marriage just wasn't there anymore. He also mentioned that before he met me, he had been seeing someone else. This Other Woman lived far away, and they would meet halfway. Boyd told me it was a long-term, non-exclusive relationship to see her and he and the O.W. were finished.

Five months into our relationship, Boyd admitted he was still seeing the O.W., so I ended things immediately. Two months later, he wanted me back, and I gave in. I missed him, and I care for him so much. Since then, I have asked him a number of times if he is seeing anyone else, and his answer is always no.

Boyd and I work together, and I see him drive into the office parking lot every morning. He is always on his cell phone talking to someone. I know it isn't his wife, because she's at home and he just saw her. I have a gut feeling that he is still involved with the O.W., but I'm not sure.

I know the woman's name and phone number. I want to call her and ask about Boyd, but I don't

want him to find out. Can you help me?

— **New York Lady**

**Dear N.Y.:** Let's see. You're having an affair with a married man. You think he's cheating on you. You want us to help you check him out on the sly.

Honey, you have more problems with this relationship than we can count.

Here's our advice: If Boyd is cheating on his wife, he probably is cheating on you as well.

If you call the O.W., she will know it's you and absolutely will spill the beans to Boyd. And no matter what you find out, you will never be able to trust him. Get out NOW, and don't look back. This relationship is going nowhere.

**Dear Annie:** My stepdaughter

has been living with her boyfriend for two years, and they recently announced their engagement. Her father and I are thrilled. However, we have a dispute over who is financially responsible for the wedding.

Since my husband and the mother of the bride are divorced, I think the cost of the wedding should be divided equally be-

tween the two of them. Also, the bride is 25 years old, and the couple has been living together. It seems reasonable to expect the newly engaged couple to contribute to the wedding expenses.

My husband says that as the father of the bride, he is responsible for the entire wedding, but our budget won't allow us to afford the wedding she wants. The ex-wife has no intention of contributing a dime. The bride informed me that this is "what daddies and grandparents are for."

— **Dreading the Nuptials**

**Dear Dreading:** How sweet. Your husband is not as obligated as he thinks. Couples who have been living together should pay most of the costs of their own wedding. We say if Daddy wishes to contribute, the two of you should decide what you can afford to give his wife and check it in that amount. However, if your husband wants to pay for the wedding, no matter what, discuss what you can afford, but do not give his wife a check in that amount. However, if your husband wants to pay for the wedding, no matter what, discuss what you can afford, but do not give his wife a check in that amount. However, if your husband wants to pay for the wedding, no matter what, discuss what you can afford, but do not give his wife a check in that amount.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of *Dear Abby*. Send us your questions to [annie@mailbox.com](mailto:annie@mailbox.com), or write to: Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

## Making the 'binnacle list'

I was in the Navy for more than 20 years. It was common naval practice to use the expression "binnacle list" for the sick list, and I always wondered why.

As with many military terms, these are often based on tradition. The "binnacle list" derives its name from a once common nautical practice.

As you point out, "binnacle list" could be the names of personnel excused from duty because of illness or injury. The list is compiled daily to inform the officer in charge about the health status of the crew. The "binnacle list" gets its name from the old practice of posting the sick list on the binnacle every morning. For the benefit of

those readers who are unfamiliar with nautical terms, a binnacle is a stand or support for the ship's compass. Long ago it was a wooden structure mounted in a location where the helmsman could see it easily. Placing the list on the binnacle was a convenient method of making the information readily available to the captain. Hence, the sick list became known as the "binnacle list." Although the list is no longer placed on the binnacle, it retains the traditional name developed from this practice.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, tenth edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Wordwatch, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.



# Another Wimbledon washout

Rainout erases break in fortnight; Ivanisevic retires

BY STEPHEN WILSON

The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Wimbledon organizers scheduled play on the middle Sunday for only the third time in the tournament's 127-year history after rain washed out all matches for the second time this week.

After Saturday's rainout, All England Club chief executive Christopher Goringe announced that matches will be held Sunday — traditionally a rest day in the two-week championships — to reduce the backlog.

The last time that happened was 1997, after no matches were played on the Thursday and Friday of the first week because of rain. The only other time matches were played on the middle Sunday was 1991.

"Ultimately, it's the club that makes the decision, but obviously we need to work with a number of key people like the police and like the local authority," Goringe said. "It's obviously a huge inconvenience for a lot of people."

Rain delayed play on Monday and Tuesday, and all matches were wiped out Wednesday in the first Wimbledon washout since 1997.

"We know the neighbors are not keen on us playing on the middle Sunday," Goringe said. "We realize we live in a residential area. This is something which we ... have never wanted to do, but we're having to do it in order to try to conclude the championships on schedule, which is our main aim."

The decision clears the way for another so-called "People's Sunday" with Wimbledon packed with thousands of fans who wouldn't usually have access to tickets. Prices are \$64 for tickets at Centre Court, \$55 for Court 1 and \$27 for the outside courts.



The second rainout in a week forced Wimbledon officials to schedule play in the middle Sunday of the event for only the third time in the tournament's 127-year history. The last time it happened was 1997.

"I think it's good for Wimbledon because it so often brings a different type of person to the championships, which is good," Goringe said. "The experiences which we've had in the past have been very, very good. It should be very interesting and a good day tomorrow. Much younger."

On Friday, Goran Ivanisevic ended his colorful 15-year career on the same court where he won his only Grand Slam title as an unseeded wild card in 2001, beating Pat Rafter in a dramatic five-set Monday final.

Ivanisevic, who missed Wimbledon the past two years because of injuries, walked off Centre Court for the last time to a standing ovation after losing in straight sets to 2002 champion Lleyton Hewitt.

"I still don't believe it's over, but I couldn't pick a better place, a better court," the 32-year-old Croat said after the third-round defeat.

Elsewhere, Andy Roddick and two-time defending champion Serena Williams won in straight sets, while French Open champion Anastasia Myskina and men's French Open runner-up Guillermo Coria were upset. Second-seeded Myskina was eliminated 4-6, 6-4, 6-4 by Amy Frazier. And No. 3 Coria lost to Germany's Florian Mayer 4-6, 6-3, 6-3, 6-4.

Ivanisevic was unable to defend his title in 2002 after undergoing surgery on his left shoulder and withdrew in 2003 after a knee injury. He struggled to get back this year for a 15th and final appearance. Even a one-sided 6-2, 6-3, 6-4 loss didn't dampen the moment.

"It was a victory for me to come here, play two matches and

lose to a guy who is a Wimbledon champion," Ivanisevic said. "Everything was perfect — the weather, the crowd, the court. I just enjoyed myself."

The capacity crowd gave Ivanisevic a two-minute ovation. He soaked in the applause, saluted the fans and, at one point, took a long look around the arena.

"I focus on every inch of this court," he said. "I have great memories of this court and some bad memories. I lost three finals, but I think the last one was the best one."

Ivanisevic slipped on a No. 10 Croatian soccer shirt, drawing good-natured boos from the English fans, still smarting from their national team's quarterfinal elimination by Portugal in the Euro 2004 championship. But the cheers returned as Ivanisevic left the court for the last time.

"I'm going to miss everything," he said. "I'm going to miss the guys that I spent so many years with. I'm going to miss serving ace on 15-40, 30-40. I'm going to miss talking to the umpire, sometimes bad, sometimes good. I'm going to miss waiting for the rain to stop."

But he's also looking forward to taking it easy.

"No more painkillers, no more practicing, no more exercising," he said. "I just want to enjoy and be proud of myself, everything I did in the last 15 years."

Ivanisevic, who made his first appearance here in 1988, lost in the finals in 1992 (Andre Agassi), 1994 (Pete Sampras) and 1995 (Sampras). Then, ranked No. 128, he came out of nowhere in 2001 to become the first wild card to win a Grand Slam title.

# TPC champ Scott leads Booz Allen

The Associated Press

POTOMAC, Md. — Records continue to fall in the Booz Allen Classic, in which a day and a half of perfect conditions and impeccable greens helped Adam Scott post a 14-under-par score after two rounds.

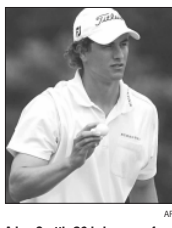
Scott's 128 total bettered the 36-hole course record of 130 set by Fred Funk in 1998. Scott's bogey-free round of 62 on Friday included nine birdies, and he paused more than once trying to remember them all.

"That's a nice problem to have," said the 23-year-old Australian, the Players Championship winner in March. "At the start of the week, I thought there were birdies out there. I think the guys are going to keep it going for the weekend."

Charles Howell III set an 18-hole TPC at Avenel record with a 61 on Thursday. He followed with a second-round 69 and was two strokes off the lead, tied with Olin Browne (66).

Glenn Day nearly outdid everyone. He was 10-under through 15 holes Friday, having holed out with a job wedge from 88 yards for an eagle on the par-5 sixth. He needed two birdies in his last three holes to match the PGA Tour record of 59.

But a storm stopped play for nearly two hours. All that time to think — plus the wind that had kicked up by the time he resumed play — helped doom Day to a par-bogey-par finish. He carded a



Adam Scott's 36-hole score of 14-under 128 broke the tournament record of 130 set by Fred Funk in 1998.

## Golf roundup

62 to match 1999 champion Rich Beem (67) at 11-under.

### Frenchman leads French Open

VERSAILLES, France — Jean-Francois Remsey matched the record of 6-under 205 Saturday to take a three-shot lead after three rounds of the French Open.

Remsey, with a 12-under 201 total, will try to become the first Frenchman in 35 years to win this event.

Remsey's 65 over the remodeled Albatross course at French National equaled the course record set earlier in the day by England's Paul Casey. Australia's Richard Green was second after a 66 gave him a 9-under 204 total. Lin Woosnam, the second-round co-leader with Remsey, struggled to a 73 and was at 5-under 208.

### Kung, Sakai top LPGA field

PITTSBURGH, N.Y. — Candie Kung had a 68 and Kim Sakai shot 69 to share the lead after two rounds of the Rochester LPGA.

Christy Murray was a stroke back at 136 after a 67, and Rosie Jones (68) and Juli Inkster (69) were at 137.

Sorenstam shot 6-under 66, the day's best round, to move three shots behind the leaders.

### Purter's 65 paces seniors

CONCORD, Mass. — Tom Purter shot 7-under 65 and held a one-stroke lead over John Harris in the Bank of America Championship on the Champions Tour.

Tom Kite, Rocky Thompson, Mike McCullough, and Walter Hall shot 67.

### Wie reaches fourth round of U.S. Women's Public

WILLIAMSBURG, Va. — U.S. Women's Amateur Public Links defending champion Michelle Wie won two matches to advance to the fourth round.

The 14-year-old from Hawaii beat Melissa Martin 3 and 1 in the second round, then defeated Curtis Cup teammate Jane Park 2 and 1 in the third round.

# Capitals take coveted Ovechkin first in NHL Draft

BY MARGARET LILLARD

The Associated Press

RALEIGH, N.C. — Alexander Ovechkin became the second Russian player selected first in the NHL Draft when he was picked by the Washington Capitals on Saturday.

Ovechkin, 18, was the top-rated European skater by the NHL's Central Scouting department. He was praised by scouts for his speed, size and stickhandling as well as his willingness to play physically and defensively.

Washington earned the right to the top pick by winning the draft lottery following the regular season. After entertaining as many as 15 trade offers by clubs looking to move up to No. 1, the Capitals decided the best move was to draft Ovechkin.

"Ovechkin has always been number one," Capitals General Manager George McPhee said. "We could have done a trade for volume, but none of those players would have been as good as this guy."

He and Ilya Kovalchuk are the only Russian players to be chosen with the NHL goal tender this season with 41, was picked by Atlanta in 2001.

"I'm very happy," Ovechkin said.

In 53 games last season for Moscow Dynamo, Ovechkin had 23 points (13 goals, 10 assists). His father, Mikhail, is a former professional soccer player and his mother, Tatiana, won Olympic gold medals in basketball in 1976 and 1980.

The Pittsburgh Penguins made it 1-2 for

Russian players when they selected forward Yevgeny Malkin with the second pick. The 17-year-old forward had three goals and nine assists last season for Magnitogorsk.

Chicago chose the first North American, top-ranked defenseman Cam Barker of Canada, with the third pick. Barker, 18, had 21 goals and 44 assists last season for Medicine Hat of the World Hockey League and was captain of Canada's under-18 national team.

He has drawn comparisons to New Jersey All-Star Scott Stevens, a hard hitter.

"I know Scott Stevens is a great player," Barker said. "To even be mentioned in the same sentence is a great honor."

Carolina traded up with Columbus to the fourth spot to choose left wing Andrew

Ladd, the top-ranked North American skater. Ladd, 18, had 30 goals and 45 assists last season for the WHL's Calgary Hitmen. The Hurricanes gave their eighth and 59th spots in the draft to the Blue Jackets, prompting prolonged cheers from the near-full house at the RBC Center.

Last year, they got Eric Staal — also the top-rated North American skater — with the second overall pick.

Phoenix chose the first U.S. player with the No. 5 pick, taking Blake Wheeler of Minnesota. The right wing, ranked 17th among North American skaters, had 45 goals and 55 assists for Breck School last season.

The high school junior was projected to go late in the first round.

The New York Rangers took the draft's top-ranked goaltender, Al Montoya of the University of Michigan, with the sixth pick.



# Bumpy road leads J. Gordon to pole

BY MIKE HARRIS

The Associated Press

SONOMA, Calif. — Jeff Gordon could hardly believe it.

After an unusually aggressive qualifying lap Friday at Infineon Raceway, the four-time NASCAR champion found himself on the pole for the Nextel Cup race on Sunday.

"I felt like I left the door wide open for some of those guys to put us back a few spots," Gordon said.

His lap included a trip through the dirt in Turn 2, bouncing over numerous curbs and nearly banging off the concrete wall on the outside of the final turn on the 1.99-mile, 10-turn road course.

"We're on a mission," Gordon said. "We're not happy with the way things have been going for us lately and all we can do is attack, attack, attack."

The Chevy driver took his second pole in a row, third of the season and 49th of his career with a time of 1 minute, 15.968 seconds, breaking the record of 1:16.522 set last year by road-racing specialist Boris Said. Gordon's speed was 94.303 mph.

Gordon, the 10th of 42 drivers who made qualifying attempts for the Dodge/Save Mart 350, chalked up the record to the newly repaved track and a new tire from Goodyear. But he was surprised nobody was able to

beat a lap he acknowledged wasn't very pretty.

"I got off the track a little bit over there in turn two," Gordon said. "I can't seem to get away from that spot on the racetrack. That's the same thing we did last year, just not quite as far off the track."

NASCAR's leading road race winner with seven victories has won three times here — twice from the pole.

Rusty Wallace and Kurt Busch also were quicker than Said's record, but couldn't match Gordon.

Wallace, driving a Dodge, was disappointed after running a lap of 1:16.072.

"When I saw [Gordon] go off course over there, I thought I could beat that," Wallace said. "I thought I threw a pole away with that one. I didn't have any problem, but I looked down and thought I had the emergency brake on. I just thought the car had a lot more in it."

Gordon vaulted nervously for other contenders, including Said, defending race winner Robby Gordon, Ricky Rudd and Tony Stewart to take their shot.

Jeff Gordon said he told crew chief Robbie Loomis, "I can't believe we're going to get this pole." But all of them had problems, with Rudd qualifying 12th, Stewart 17th, Said 19th and the other Gordon 24th.

## Dodge/Save Mart 350 lineup

NASCAR Nextel Cup  
Friday's qualifying race Sunday  
At Infineon Raceway  
Sonoma, Calif.

Race distance: 218.5 miles, 110 laps

Car number in parentheses

1. (24) Jeff Gordon, Chevrolet, 94.303 mph

2. (2) Rusty Wallace, Dodge, 94.174

3. (1) Kurt Busch, Ford, 93.824

4. (6) Mark Martin, Ford, 93.701

5. (17) Matt Kenseth, Ford, 93.561

6. (29) Scott Pruett, Dodge, 93.464

7. (16) Greg Biffle, Ford, 93.435

8. (25) Kevin Harvick, Chevrolet, 93.344

9. (61) Joe Nemechek, Chevrolet, 93.293

10. (18) Bobby Labonte, Chevrolet, 93.195

11. (42) Jamie McMurray, Dodge, 93.151

12. (21) Ricky Rudd, Ford, 92.950

13. (99) Ward Burton, Ford, 92.834

14. (6) Ward Burton, Chevrolet, 92.713

15. (5) Terry Labonte, Chevrolet, 92.680

16. (30) Elliott Sadler, Dodge, 92.540

17. (20) Tony Stewart, Chevrolet, 92.459

18. (60) Ken Schrader, Dodge, 92.361

19. (20) Boris Said, Chevrolet, 92.326

20. (6) Dale Earnhardt Jr., Chevrolet, 92.266

21. (19) Jeremy Mayfield, Dodge, 92.124

22. (12) Ryan Newman, Dodge, 92.113

23. (88) Dale Jarrett, Ford, 92.004

24. (31) Robby Gordon, Chevrolet, 91.840

25. (22) Scott Wimmer, Dodge, 91.891

26. (40) Sterling Marlin, Dodge, 91.862

27. (45) Kyle Petty, Dodge, 91.823

28. (30) Jim Ingelbright, Chevrolet, 91.812

29. (41) Casey Mears, Dodge, 91.801

30. (3) Casey Kahne, Dodge, 91.777

31. (59) P.J. Jones, Dodge, 91.631

32. (61) Austin Camacho, Chevrolet, 91.590

33. (77) Brendan Gaughan, Dodge, 91.486

34. (48) Jimmie Johnson, Chevrolet, 91.146

35. (40) Tom Hubert, Chevrolet, 90.713

36. (41) Jeff Green, Dodge, 90.591

37. (40) Brandon Ash, Ford, 89.823

38. (59) Klaus Graf, Dodge, 88.636

39. (20) Brian Vickers, Chevrolet, Provisional

40. (16) Michael Waltrip, Chevrolet, Provisional

41. (10) Scott Hall, Chevrolet, Provisional

42. (82) Ricky Craven, Chevrolet, Provisional

43. (80) Larry Gselman, Dodge, Provisional

Failed to qualify

44. (80) Morgan Shepherd, Dodge, DNS

# Williamsses, Roddick to play in Olympics

The Associated Press

WIMBLEDON, England — Serena and Venus Williams, Maratona Navratilova, Jennifer Capriati and Andy Roddick head the U.S. Olympic tennis teams that were announced Saturday at Wimbledon.

Navratilova will be making her Olympic debut at 47, while Capriati will represent the United States in international team competition for the first time since a falling out with former Fed Cup captain Billie Jean King in April 2002.

The Williams sisters won the women's doubles in the 2000 Sydney Games, and Venus won the singles gold. They'll play Athens and doubles in the Aug. 13-29 Olympics. Capriati and Chanda Rubin will play singles, while Navratilova and Lisa Raymond will be the other doubles team.

Roddick, the U.S. Open champion who's ranked No. 2, will be joined on the men's squad by No. 20 Marandy Fish, No. 30 Vince Spadea and No. 31 Taylor Dent in singles, plus the top-ranked doubles team of twins Bob and Mike Bryan.

Roddick and Fish will play doubles together.

**Okafar to play in Olympics**

CHARLOTTE, N.C. — Emeka Okafar said Friday he will play for the U.S. Olympic basketball team, a decision that doesn't thrill the Charlotte Bobcats.

Okafar was a finalist for the final roster spot, but he and his agent said he has accepted an invitation to play in Athens later this summer.

The Bobcats said paperwork issues have held up the official announcement, which is expected next week. Okafar was selected over Brad Miller and Theo Ratliff.

"It's a great honor, especially since it kind of came out of nowhere," Okafar said. "It's almost like a chance of a lifetime, to be an Olympian at 21."

Charlotte, which traded up to the No. 2 overall pick in the NBA Draft to select Okafar, doesn't share the joy.

"We are all somewhat concerned because all that basketball came out of a lot of wear and tears and prevents you from being fresh at the start of the season," Charlotte coach and general manager Bernie Bickerstaff said. "We have many concerns that we want to address."

**Greece '90 percent ready' to safeguard Games**

ATHENS, Greece — Greece's top law enforcement official declared Saturday that security forces were "90 percent ready" to safeguard the summer Olympics and Athens will gradually lockdown beginning July 1.

There have been more than 200 security exercises so far, testing hundreds of scenarios from hostage crises to attacks by chemical, biological and radiological weapons. Public Order Minister Giorgos Voulgarakis said.

"The Olympic security period" starts in five days to prepare for

## Sports briefs

the Aug. 13-29 Games, he said. "The deployment of officers to their positions will have been completed."

"We are very pleased with the level of improvement that has been achieved so far, which has led to the 90 percent ready and more," Voulgarakis said.

Athens will deploy 70,000 police and soldiers while also receiving help from NATO.

## Judge orders probe into leaks of BALCO testimony

SAN FRANCISCO — A judge on Friday ordered federal prosecutors to investigate whether the government leaked grand jury transcripts in which sprinter Tim Montgomery testified he used performance-enhancing drugs.

U.S. District Judge Susan Illston, presiding over the case of four men accused of distributing steroids, demanded that the men's defense attorneys and their clients also sign sworn declarations that they did not illegally release the transcripts to the San Francisco Chronicle, which published some of Montgomery's testimony Thursday.

"I'm curious to know how that got there," Illston said during a fiery hearing in which prosecutors and defense lawyers pointed fingers at one another.

## Texans, LB Abner agree to multiyear deal

HOUSTON — The Houston Texans have agreed to a deal with first-round pick Jason Abner, signing the linebacker out of Western Michigan to a multiyear deal.

Abner is the first first-round pick to agree to terms with an NFL team, the second time in three seasons the Texans have been the first team in the league to lock up a first-round pick.

Financial terms weren't immediately available.

Abner, a 6-foot-2, 260-pounder who was a star defensive end at Western Michigan, has agreed to a six-year contract, a league source said Saturday.

## Harding takes pounding in boxing ring

EDMONTON, Alberta — Tonya Harding's new career as a boxer took a severe beating Friday, along with her face, as she was knocked out by Amy Johnson.

Boxing fans booed the self-styled spitfire of U.S. sports when she entered the ring and leapt to their feet cheering as she was pummeled by the 22-year-old Johnson.

Harding, 33, of Portland, Ore., was hoping to use Friday's bout as a launching pad for a big money title fight after trading in her figure skates for boxing gloves two years ago. But that dream took a bruising in the third round when she was pushed up against the ropes by Johnson and punched repeatedly in the face.

The fight was stopped at 1:04 of the round.

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# Bryant trial to begin on Aug. 27

The Associated Press

EAGLE, Colorado — The sexual assault trial of NBA All-Star Kobe Bryant will begin Aug. 27, more than a year after he was accused of raping a 19-year-old woman.

The trial date was set Friday by Judge Terry Ruckriegel. It is expected to last three to four weeks, including the process of questioning and choosing jurors.

Bryant, 25, has pleaded not guilty, saying he had consensual sex with the woman at a Vail-area resort June 30, 2003. If convicted, the Los Angeles Lakers star faces four years to life in prison or 20 years to life on probation.

Earlier in the day, the major issue in the case revolved around transcripts of a closed-door hearing in the case, accidentally released to the media by a court reporter which set off a battle between the judge and media organizations that received the documents.

Ruckriegel issued an order late Thursday threatening contempt of court if the material was published. The news organizations that received the transcripts, including The Associated Press, contended the order was unconstitutional, but none immediately reported on any of the material.

The organizations said they would appeal the order to the Colorado Supreme Court on Monday.

The transcripts were from a two-day closed-door hearing earlier this week that dealt primarily with witness testimony and evidence on the accuser's sex life.

Media attorney Tom Kelley noted that the media organizations had not sought the transcripts, which were sealed by the judge. In such cases, it is up to the organizations to decide whether to publish the material, not a judge or any other government official, he said.

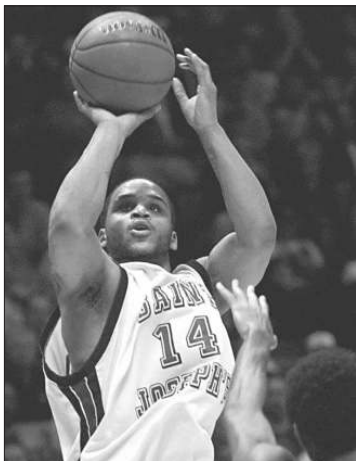
"Regardless of what information may be contained in this hearing transcript, and regardless of whether any individual media outlet ultimately decides to publish it, these members of the press seek to vindicate this fundamental principle, one that lies at the heart of our system of government," Kelley said.

The transcripts were of a hearing earlier this week.

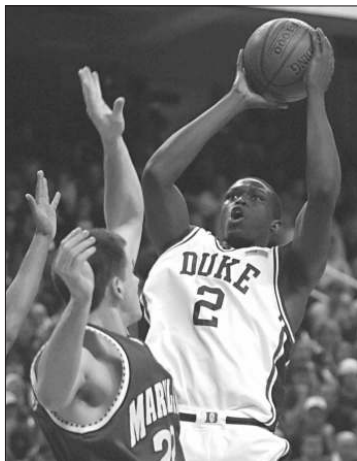
The court reporter intended to e-mail them to the judge and other court staff, but accidentally used the wrong group of addresses, state courts spokeswoman Karen Salas said.

Shortly after he learned of the mistake, Ruckriegel issued an order saying the transcripts were not for public dissemination and that any revelation of their contents could bring a contempt of court citation.

The judge had anticipated the order would be challenged, Salas said.



The Orlando Magic took prep star Dwight Howard with the top pick and acquired No. 20 pick Jameer Nelson, above, in a trade with Denver.



Luol Deng, who was acquired by the Chicago Bulls after being chosen seventh overall by the Phoenix Suns, is an athletic small forward.

## Bulls, Magic still are top two

### Chicago, Orlando score high marks for selections in NBA Draft

BY MARC NARDUCCI  
The Philadelphia Inquirer

#### Analysis

Another NBA Draft has been completed, and grading the teams has become more difficult. That's because, with eight high school first-rounders and other unknown quantities, even many of the teams aren't really sure what they have. Still, it's possible to offer an initial evaluation:

#### The big winners

**Chicago.** Ben Gordon may not be a pure point guard, but with Kirk Hinrich also in the backcourt, maybe he can play the off-guard despite his height (6-foot-1). He is a confident player who will be able to score. Luol Deng has been described as a potential Scottie Pippen-type player, one who will give the Bulls intelligence and better-than-expected athletic ability at the small-forward spot.

**Orlando.** Depending on whom the Magic receive for disgruntled Tracy McGrady, they might be a competitive team next season, even with Johnny Davis as their coach. Top pick Dwight Howard isn't ready to be an NBA star but should contribute as a rookie. Jameer Nelson could see immediate time at point guard unless Steve Francis or some other big-name point guard is acquired for McGrady. Brazilian forward Anderson Varejao was considered a first-round talent, but Orlando got him with the first pick of the second round. In all, Orlando made some serious progress in the draft.

**Washington.** For a team that traded its first-round pick, the Wizards made great improvement. Antawn Jamison, whom the Wizards acquired from Dallas, will give them a serious offensive option. Plus, they were able to rid themselves of Jerry Stackhouse and Christian Laettner. That is addition by subtraction. Surrendering the No. 5 pick in the deal with Dallas was difficult, but Jamison is better right now than anybody who was in the draft. And 7-1 center Peter John Ramos of Puerto Rico could be one of the best second-round picks.

**Charlotte.** Any first-year expansion team that can get a character and high-quality player such as Emeka Okafor to build around is on the right track.

#### To be determined

**Dallas.** The Mavericks didn't own a first-round pick at the beginning of the week but ended up with two of them. They took point guard Devin Harris with the pick they got from Washington and acquired the No. 21 pick, 7-5 center Pavel Podkolzine, from Utah. Of course, they are trying to get Shaquille O'Neal, so those guys may not be Mavs for very long.

**76ers.** Before everybody bashes the picking of a player who averaged just 12.9 points per game in college last season, remember that Andre Iguodala was expected

by many to be drafted much higher than No. 9.

Few players in the draft are better athletes. The Sixers, who looked slow and tired last season, wanted to become more athletic.

Plus, Iguodala is known as a tenacious defender, which makes him ideal for a Jim O'Brien-coached team. He has to work on his jumper, but he has a promising upside that may not be evident immediately, especially because he should be heading into his junior year at Arizona.

#### Biggest reach

**Toronto.** The Raptors took center Rafael Araujo with the No. 8 pick. The Brigham Young center had worked out for the Sixers, and O'Brien had talked about how he was far from becoming even a competent NBA-level defender. He also isn't overly quick. Some people suggested that he could have gone much lower in the draft, but Toronto didn't have a lower pick, and it liked him.

#### Biggest gambles

**Portland.** The Trail Blazers surprised many by taking high school point guard Sebastian Telfair with the No. 13 pick, especially with Jameer Nelson still on the board. Telfair is a high-risk, high-reward player who could be a future all-pro or a washout. The Blazers also selected Viktor Khryapa and Sergei Monia, a pair of forwards who were teammates in Russia. Anybody in the NBA who says he can predict how this draft will turn out for the Blazers is either lying or the smartest person in the league.

**Seattle.** The Sonics chose 7-foot high school center Robert Swift, whose stock went up although he refused to work out for teams before the draft. That's how crazy the NBA has become. It says here that workouts would have exposed him.

#### Wait and see

**Boston.** The Celtics had three first-round picks and chose high school forward Al Jefferson at No. 15. St. Joseph's guard Delonte West at No. 24 and Oklahoma State guard Tony Allen at No. 25. Allen looked ordinary at the Chicago pre-draft camp, while West obviously boosted his stock there. Celtics fans shouldn't look for immediate results.

All three players are works in progress with potential. Utah. The Jazz added freshman forward Kris Humphries of Minnesota at No. 14 and shooting guard Kirk Snyder of Nevada at No. 16.

Humphries can shoot, but there are questions about his athletic ability. Snyder is a great athlete who isn't known as a shooter. If they work on their weaknesses, they could become good players.

#### Underrated move

Phoenix traded the seventh pick to Chicago for a future first-round pick, cash considerations, and the Bulls' second-round. The second-round pick turned out to be Jackson Vroman, a 6-9 power forward whose motor is always running. He is somebody who should pick up the intensity level of the Suns.

# Braves now looking up at most of NL East

## Depleted Atlanta no longer looks like team that has been postseason fixture since 1991

By PETER SCHMUCK

The Baltimore Sun

In the Atlanta Braves' new world, the postseason is no longer a foregone conclusion.

They still own a string of playoff appearances that remains unbroken to 1991, but they don't have Greg Maddux or Tom Glavine or any semblance of the starting rotation that once defined Atlanta as the pitching capital of the baseball world.

They also entered the 2004 season without power-hitting catcher Javy Lopez and outfielder Gary Sheffield, who departed last winter in the organization's latest talent exodus.

"We saw them in spring training, and you could sense that there was a big difference," said New York Yankees manager Joe Torre, who played for the Braves in the 1960s and managed the club from 1982 to 1984. "Their pitching has been their strength, and they didn't have the depth they had in the past."

"They had lost players before, but they had never really depleted their pitching."

The proof is in fourth place, where the Braves trail the Florida Marlins, Philadelphia Phillies

and even the resurgent New York Mets in the once-comfy National League East. It is a far cry from their usual position at the top of the division, but Lopez, a Baltimore Orioles catcher, isn't ready to paint them out of the playoff picture just yet.

"Even though they are not playing as well as they have played in the past," Lopez said, "they're still only a few games out of first place. That's nothing. They can win four in a row and the Marlins can lose four in a row and they would be right back up there."

True enough, but this is definitely not the same Braves team that reached the playoffs in every full season Lopez was the everyday catcher with Atlanta. The starting rotation that used to feature three of the best starters in the game entered Thursday night's series finale against the Florida Marlins without a pitcher with a winning record.

Russ Ortiz (6-6), John Thomson (5-6) and Jaret Wright (5-5) are holding together a rotation that expected more from Mike Hampton (1-7) and is awaiting the return of injured Horatio Ramirez. Some help has arrived in the form of right-hander Paul Byrd, who gave up just four hits

in seven innings Saturday in his first major league start since undergoing Tommy John surgery on his elbow in July.

The Braves gave up some pitching to acquire power-hitting outfielder J.D. Drew from the St. Louis Cardinals, but that was not enough to offset the loss of Lopez (43 home runs) and Sheffield (39 homers, 132 RBIs) and the troublesome hamstring injury that has allowed outfielder Chipper Jones to play in barely half the team's games so far.

In addition, outfielder Andrew Jones missed last weekend with a twisted knee, and Lopez's replacement, promising catcher Johnny Estrada, has been hampered by a hamstring strain and a bruised thumb.

The only constant has been veteran closer John Smoltz, who has converted 11 of 12 save opportunities, but Lopez isn't ready to concede his former teammates will miss the postseason.

"It all depends on what kind of moves they make and what happens at the end of the season," Lopez said. "The Atlanta Braves used to leave the second-place team way behind. I don't know if they'll do that this year, but it doesn't matter. They've got something ... a chemistry. ... They know how to win."



Atlanta Braves starter Russ Ortiz heads to the dugout after allowing four runs in the first three innings against Cleveland on June 20 in Atlanta. Ortiz (6-6) leads the Braves' rotation in wins.

# Royals pick up, move on without Beltran after trade

By DOUG TUCKER

The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The day after the Kansas City Royals traded one of the finest players they ever developed, a handwritten message brought tears to manager Tony Pena.

Carlos Beltran, as he left the clubhouse for Houston, placed the note in Pena's office where he knew he would find it.

"He just said, 'Thanks for everything,'" Pena said. "For your help, and for the friendship. With all my heart, you are the best manager I ever played for. God bless you and your family."

It was, Pena said, "tough. Very tough." "Everybody wanted Carlos to stay here. I want Carlos to stay here," Pena said.

"The front office wanted Carlos to stay here, but sometimes it is out of our hands and it is tough to deal with."

Knowing they could not — or would not — give Beltran the huge contract he would

demand next year on the free-agent market, the Royals sent him to the Houston Astros on Thursday in a three-team deal that brought three prospects to Kansas City: third baseman Mark Teahen, pitcher Mike Wood and catcher John Buck.

Beltran and his wife were having dinner at Mike Sweeney's house when General Manager Allard Baird called him Thursday night with the news.

"He gave us all hugs," said Sweeney, the Royals' captain and first baseman. "Carlos is a great man."

Beltran, the AL player of the month for April, was leading the Royals with 15 home runs, 51 RBIs and 14 stolen bases.

"Yeah, we're going to miss him," Sweeney said. "Right now there's a big hole in our clubhouse. Houston is going to fall in love with him, not only as a baseball player, but as people."

Buck started against St. Louis on Friday

night in his major league debut. The Royals plan to put Wood in the rotation immediately.

Replacing Beltran in center field was David DeJesus, who was brought up from Triple-A Omaha, where he was sent after going 1-for-23 in 11 big league games in April.

"It is a very, very tough thing for this kid to step in and replace the type of player Carlos Beltran is," Pena said. "He is our best player in the minor leagues. We prepared him to play center field every single day."

"This is what I said to him — 'Just be yourself, just go out and play your game.'"

Baird is generally getting high marks for the trade, especially considering that everyone in baseball knew he planned to unload Beltran.

The Royals last offered the smooth switch-hitter a contract "two Decembers ago," Baird said.

"We offered him a three-year deal and then had conversations with his agent, Scott Boras. From what they desired, it was not even close," Baird said.

"When things get to the extreme and you cannot make a deal, we can go ahead and make a nice offer that satisfies, I guess, newspapers and fans and that kind of stuff. But we're lying to people."

"Bottom line, this was way out of our reach. Way out of our reach. Quite frankly, out of a lot of teams' reaches," he said.

Pena did not try to pretend the Royals had strengthened themselves. They went into Friday night's game with a 28-41 record, last in the AL Central.

"It's very tough for me to say if you're going to improve the team ... when you trade your best player and one of the best players in baseball," Pena said. "I think we improved getting young players for our organization. I think we improved for the future if they turn into players they should be."

## Messages of Support



Just a line from a proud "MOM," with a son serving with you in Iraq. My thoughts and prayers are with you every minute of every day. Jim is doing what he knows is right and will fight side by side with you. Rest assured that the larger majority of the American people are with you and our Commander in

Chief. America has ALWAYS done the RIGHT THING for the cause of freedom - for our people and other peoples of the world, though it is sometimes difficult because we play fair and others don't. Please keep in mind that we are with you in any and ways possible. "Let's Roll!" Sincerely, Kathleen A Noble, Mother of James S Noble - Seabee, E5



Hi Stacie, hope you are okay. God Bless you. We love you and are so very proud. Look forward to hearing from you soon. Chris is going over to Iraq shortly. Love, Mom



C. D. Berry: Many around the world are praying for you! You are that special!! The boys and I love and miss you. You are our hero! Love, Angel, C.J. and Tyus

## Major League Baseball statistics

Through June 25

## American League

	TEAM BATTING					
	AB	R	H	HR	BAB	Avg
Chicago	2456	401	689	102	382	.280
Anaheim	2559	364	717	68	345	.280
Detroit	2503	367	699	70	353	.279
Texas	2479	384	691	99	367	.278
Cleveland	2505	375	695	78	356	.278
Baltimore	2452	354	680	73	334	.277
Boston	2531	390	720	90	369	.272
Oakland	2570	357	692	88	336	.269
Minnesota	2530	338	663	80	317	.262
Toronto	2511	321	656	58	309	.261
Los Angeles	2500	325	655	74	307	.261
Kansas City	2389	315	625	74	302	.261
Tampa Bay	2373	318	615	64	302	.259
Seattle	2505	287	639	52	269	.255

#### INDIVIDUAL BATTING

based on 211 plate appearances

[illegible]

## National League

TEAM BATTING						Colorado		6/03 7/2	
AB	R	H	HR	RBI	Avg	Based on			
2506	387	688	94	372	.274				
2455	302	670	73	286	.272				
2446	317	671	81	317	.271	Otsuka SD	36		
2567	354	698	96	345	.271	TGlavine NYM	110		
2489	375	673	90	355	.270	CCrabb NYM	101		
2432	308	655	68	292	.269	CSheets MIL	101		
2447	307	652	75	286	.268	SSchmidt SF	96		
2430	302	642	70	286	.267	Penny FLA	98		
2436	310	647	76	356	.267	CClemens HO	99		
2442	317	649	74	298	.266	OPerez LA	103		
2496	354	626	95	335	.256	Pavano FLA	101		
2446	315	626	85	286	.256	CClement CHC	99		
2508	311	632	78	334	.253	CClemens HO	99		
2440	315	612	71	300	.250	OMoon NYM	77		
2440	315	612	71	300	.250	RJohnson Ari	97		
2359	320	560	60	219	.237	DDavis MIL	108		

### INDIVIDUAL BATTING

Day	21st place appearance	8th Ave	Day Mon	21st place appearance
228	55 100 6	54 35 357	Alfonso 1st A1	36
159	56 56 6	18 39 352	Tracy Nash 1M	31
8	58 8 8	29 35 352	Tracy Nash 1M	31
359	37 100 6	6 29 352	PWilton 1C	31
217	50 10 8	15 43 358	Clarence STL	34
355	35 35 35	35 35 35	Opener STL	34
234	80 30 4	41 41 332	Suipat STL	34
256	62 62 4	47 32 324	Ishii KL	34
256	62 62 4	28 32 322	Kennedy Col 67	34
231	47 74 25	32 30 322	Webb STL	77
276	41 48 44	44 31 319	Lawrence SD	50
276	41 48 44	44 31 319	Webb STL	50
257	62 82 16	36 31 319	Webb STL	101 11
231	46 73 16	55 31 316	Vsantos ML	57
231	46 73 16	55 31 316	Brown SF	56
363	38 102 10	45 31 312	Williams STL	51
238	40 74 3	21 31 310	Willis STL	51
279	68 68 8	27 30 308	Pacific PH	79
318	30 30 30	25 30 306	Phillips STL	79
302	63 79 20	51 305	Milton STL	35
4	4 4 4	30 30 30	Westers STL	89
359	39 39 9	23 30 301	Moore STL	89
278	43 83 15	49 298	Marquys STL	77
278	43 83 15	49 298	Belys STL	77
342	31 72 7	35 296	Marquys STL	77

278	49	82	17
264	43	78	15

281	46	83	18	29	Wolver Lake	53
282	39	86	8	30	294	83
283	22	82	5	31	WVilliams StL	81
284	15	82	8	32	Eaton St	80
285	13	82	8	33	292	80
286	46	78	10	34	293	80
287	27	75	15	35	291	80
288	22	75	15	36	290	80
289	25	65	11	37	289	80
290	26	43	18	38	288	80
291	26	43	18	39	287	80
292	26	43	18	40	286	80
293	26	43	18	41	285	80
294	26	43	18	42	284	80
295	26	43	18	43	283	80
296	26	43	18	44	282	80
297	26	43	18	45	281	80
298	26	43	18	46	280	80
299	26	43	18	47	279	80
300	26	43	18	48	278	80
301	26	43	18	49	277	80
302	26	43	18	50	276	80
303	26	43	18	51	275	80
304	26	43	18	52	274	80
305	26	43	18	53	273	80
306	26	43	18	54	272	80
307	26	43	18	55	271	80
308	26	43	18	56	270	80
309	26	43	18	57	269	80
310	26	43	18	58	268	80
311	26	43	18	59	267	80
312	26	43	18	60	266	80
313	26	43	18	61	265	80
314	26	43	18	62	264	80
315	26	43	18	63	263	80
316	26	43	18	64	262	80
317	26	43	18	65	261	80
318	26	43	18	66	260	80
319	26	43	18	67	259	80
320	26	43	18	68	258	80
321	26	43	18	69	257	80
322	26	43	18	70	256	80
323	26	43	18	71	255	80
324	26	43	18	72	254	80
325	26	43	18	73	253	80
326	26	43	18	74	252	80
327	26	43	18	75	251	80
328	26	43	18	76	250	80
329	26	43	18	77	249	80
330	26	43	18	78	248	80
331	26	43	18	79	247	80
332	26	43	18	80	246	80
333	26	43	18	81	245	80
334	26	43	18	82	244	80
335	26	43	18	83	243	80
336	26	43	18	84	242	80
337	26	43	18	85	241	80
338	26	43	18	86	240	80
339	26	43	18	87	239	80
340	26	43	18	88	238	80
341	26	43	18	89	237	80
342	26	43	18	90	236	80
343	26	43	18	91	235	80

53	74	10	40	275
44	74	14	3	275
43	75	3	24	275
37	60	5	12	275
37	63	12	49	275
23	66	5	24	273
31	70	15	43	277
23	71	7	33	272
38	71	7	33	272
43	68	15	27	270
26	55	6	22	268
41	58	6	32	267
34	60	12	38	266
36	51	13	32	264
28	60	10	36	263
24	53	8	27	261
28	60	3	26	259
42	74	10	42	258
47	63	20	46	257
22	20	8	21	256
36	51	6	18	255
36	51	6	22	254
41	71	7	22	253
27	60	5	22	253
33	52	1	12	252
24	56	3	33	251
48	72	9	25	250
36	65	9	33	250
30	66	1	12	248
34	66	11	39	248
28	55	3	24	247
25	66	1	21	248
28	55	3	24	247
25	66	1	21	248
28	55	3	24	247
44	72	5	38	246
40	62	12	37	243
17	51	12	16	241
36	57	12	29	239
27	65	4	21	239
30	54	2	22	238
21	52	3	23	236
25	48	2	18	234
16	52	2	27	231
19	48	2	20	231
33	51	9	26	214

23 51 8 26 212  
PITCHING

ER	BB	SO	Sh	Sv
8	254	236	402	4
8	263	203	452	4
5	277	238	592	2
6	271	215	468	3
4	281	230	586	6
0	289	226	516	8
8	284	236	436	5
5	286	248	473	5
1	297	202	440	4
9	292	248	455	3
3	300	220	458	3
1	336	248	446	2
7	327	272	484	1
4	348	223	429	3
6	359	307	485	5
3	331	423	434	14

### ALL PITCHING

Rank	Player	Team	W	L	ERA
1	Tim Lincecum	Seattle	10	4	2.14
2	Justin Verlander	Detroit	10	4	2.17
3	Tim Lincecum	Seattle	9	7	2.11
4	Justin Verlander	Detroit	8	8	2.25
5	Tim Lincecum	Seattle	8	6	2.41
6	Justin Verlander	Detroit	10	7	2.43
7	Tim Lincecum	Seattle	9	7	2.65
8	Justin Verlander	Detroit	10	10	2.73
9	Tim Lincecum	Seattle	12	7	2.84
10	Justin Verlander	Detroit	10	8	2.58
11	Tim Lincecum	Seattle	10	8	2.98
12	Justin Verlander	Detroit	7	27	3.01
13	Tim Lincecum	Seattle	16	3	3.01
14	Justin Verlander	Detroit	16	3	3.01
15	Tim Lincecum	Seattle	25	12	3.10
16	Justin Verlander	Detroit	6	9	3.28

58	11	23	4	3	3.29
76	44	74	7	7	3.35

32	14	59	5	8	3.35
33	54	55	5	8	3.35
34	54	55	5	8	3.35
35	54	55	5	8	3.35
36	54	55	5	8	3.35
37	54	55	5	8	3.35
38	54	55	5	8	3.35
39	54	55	5	8	3.35
40	54	55	5	8	3.35
41	54	55	5	8	3.35
42	54	55	5	8	3.35
43	54	55	5	8	3.35
44	54	55	5	8	3.35
45	54	55	5	8	3.35
46	54	55	5	8	3.35
47	54	55	5	8	3.35
48	54	55	5	8	3.35
49	54	55	5	8	3.35
50	54	55	5	8	3.35
51	54	55	5	8	3.35
52	54	55	5	8	3.35
53	54	55	5	8	3.35
54	54	55	5	8	3.35
55	54	55	5	8	3.35
56	54	55	5	8	3.35
57	54	55	5	8	3.35
58	54	55	5	8	3.35
59	54	55	5	8	3.35
60	54	55	5	8	3.35
61	54	55	5	8	3.35
62	54	55	5	8	3.35
63	54	55	5	8	3.35
64	54	55	5	8	3.35
65	54	55	5	8	3.35
66	54	55	5	8	3.35
67	54	55	5	8	3.35
68	54	55	5	8	3.35
69	54	55	5	8	3.35
70	54	55	5	8	3.35
71	54	55	5	8	3.35
72	54	55	5	8	3.35
73	54	55	5	8	3.35
74	54	55	5	8	3.35
75	54	55	5	8	3.35
76	54	55	5	8	3.35
77	54	55	5	8	3.35
78	54	55	5	8	3.35
79	54	55	5	8	3.35
80	54	55	5	8	3.35
81	54	55	5	8	3.35
82	54	55	5	8	3.35
83	54	55	5	8	3.35
84	54	55	5	8	3.35
85	54	55	5	8	3.35
86	54	55	5	8	3.35
87	54	55	5	8	3.35
88	54	55	5	8	3.35
89	54	55	5	8	3.35
90	54	55	5	8	3.35
91	54	55	5	8	3.35
92	54	55	5	8	3.35
93	54	55	5	8	3.35
94	54	55	5	8	3.35
95	54	55	5	8	3.35
96	54	55	5	8	3.35
97	54	55	5	8	3.35
98	54	55	5	8	3.35
99	54	55	5	8	3.35
100	54	55	5	8	3.35



**San Diego Padres** rookie reliever **Akinori Otsuka** leads the National League with a 1.47 ERA and has struck out 42 in 36 innings.

# Scars and Stripes

## Messages of Support

★ Godspeed ... and may He keep you out of harm's way. There isn't Mass that I attend, that you are not mentioned to be safe.

## Scars and Scripts

# Messages of Support

★ To say I was proud to be an American would be an understatement. The rights and privileges we have here in the U.S. are too often taken granted without a thought of how it all came to be. Like others before you, who fought to preserve these rights and create a better world, you will forever be remembered as our Heroes. There are no words to thank you all for your bravery and dedication. But as I sit here today and realize how privileged I am to go about my daily routines...from sitting in the traffic jams on my commute to work to complaining about my everyday life...I just want to say, "Thank you." I know that I have all of you to thank, and I do with every thought. God Bless our Heroes. The world will be a better place BECAUSE OF YOU!

★ Hello to all of the men & women serving our country. There are so many of us that are supporting you. All we love and support each and everyone of you. My father was a Vietnam Veteran, so I can appreciate the sacrifice that you and your families are making. I am very proud of our men & women that are defending our country. I just wish there were more that I could do to show my support. I will be praying for each of you daily. Keep safe and God Bless! Carolyn Smith



# Water barrage proves Walker as good as ever

BY TOM WITHERS  
The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — On Larry Walker's previous visit to Jacobs Field, he participated in a home-run hitting contest.

He returned Friday night, and he's still swinging for the fences.

Walker hit three home runs — his last a two-run shot in the 10th inning — to power the Colorado Rockies to a 10-8 victory over the Cleveland Indians.

Walker, playing in just his fourth game this season after being sidelined 68 games by a groin injury, drove the first pitch from former teammate Jose Jimenez (1-6) into the right-field seats.

"It's a shock to me what I did to-night," Walker said.

Not to anyone else.

"Anybody who has spent time any time with Larry knows what he's capable of," Rockies manager Clint Hurdle said. "That's some kind of special night."

Walker's laser shot into the lower right field seats in the 10th scored Todd Helton, who led off with his third single.

Walker also connected for solo homers leading off the second and sixth innings for the Rockies,

who trailed 5-2 after five before scoring six times in the sixth.

The 37-year-old Walker is 3-for-3 with three homers and eight RBIs in his career against Jimenez. The right-hander gave up two three-run homers to Walker the last time the Canadian outfielder hit three in a game, on April 28, 1999 in St. Louis.

Walker credited an adjustment he made during pregame batting practice with shaking some of the rust off his swing. Don't bother asking what change he made.

"It's a secret," he said with a smile. "I change things all the time."

Ben Broussard had five RBIs and Casey Blake homered for the Indians, who had won 12 straight weekend — Friday, Saturday and Sunday — home games.

Steve Reed (1-1) pitched a scoreless ninth, and Shawn Chacona, who had a perfect 10th for his 16th save in 22 tries.

"I think it's his first 1-2-3 inning since spring training," Hurdle said jokingly.

Walker's three homers traveled an estimated 1,255 feet on a cool night in Jacobs Field, which for a few innings played a lot like



Larry Walker is congratulated by teammate Todd Helton after the first of his three home runs against the Cleveland Indians on Friday night.

the Rockies' Coors Field in mile-high Denver.

In 1997, Walker went deep 19 times to finish second to Tino Martinez in the All-Star weekend's home run derby.

"I guess I like it here," Walker said.

He wasn't thinking about a home run when he came up in the 10th. Sleep was on his mind.

"Victor (Martinez) asked me how I was doing," Walker said, re-

ferring to the Indians catcher. "I said, 'I'm tired.' That's the longest game I've been in since September."

Walker led off the sixth with his second homer off the right-hander to make it 5-3, igniting a six-run outburst.

Walker's blast to straightaway center to start the sixth rattled around in the picnic tables beyond the outfield wall, an estimated 449 feet away.

## Boone, Tribe in tentative agreement on contract

The Associated Press

CLEVELAND — Free agent third baseman Aaron Boone has reached a tentative agreement on a two-year contract with the Cleveland Indians, The Associated Press learned Friday.

Boone, whose 11th-inning homer in Game 7 of the All-championship series last season put the New York Yankees in the World Series, hasn't played since injuring his left knee during a pickup basketball game in January.

The Indians, who outline several other teams for Boone, plan to announce the signing this weekend if Boone passes his physical, according to two

### MLB briefs

baseball sources who spoke to the AP on the condition of anonymity.

Boone had surgery before being released in February by the Yankees. He agreed in December to a one-year, \$5.75 million deal with New York, but the contract prohibited him from playing basketball. So, the Yankees only had to give him 30 days termination pay — \$917,553.

### Santiago to minors

SEATTLE — The Seattle Mariners sent shortstop Ramon Santiago to Class AAA Tacoma on Friday and recalled left-hander Matt Thornton from the Rainiers. Santiago was hitting .143 with four RBIs in 10 games.

### Stinnett faces surgery

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — Catcher Kelly Stinnett will have reconstructive elbow surgery and miss the rest of the season, the Kansas City Royals said Friday.

Stinnett, a nine-year veteran, was hitting .305 with three home runs and seven RBIs in 20 games for Kansas City.

### Twins recall Romero

MINNEAPOLIS — The Minnesota Twins recalled left-handed reliever J.C. Romero from Class AAA Rochester on Friday and optioned infielder Alex Prieto to Rochester.

Romero was sent to Rochester on June 12 after struggling with a 5.70 ERA in 32 appearances with the Twins. He started three games and had a 2.25 ERA with Rochester.

Prieto saw limited duty, batting .250 in 13 games.

### Pirates activate OF Davis

CINCINNATI — The Pittsburgh Pirates activated outfielder J.J. Davis from the 15-day disabled list Friday, and designated outfielder Ruben Mateo for assignment.

Davis was on the disabled list since May 19 with a sprained right pinkie. He hit .095 and drove in two runs in 16 games before his injury.

Mateo hit .242 with three homers and seven RBIs in 19 games with the Pirates.

## Baseball confirms andro ban and testing

BY RONALD BLUM  
The Associated Press

PHILADELPHIA — Six years after Mark McGwire made andro famous during his 70-home run season, the steroid-like supplement has been banned by major league baseball and its players.

The ban, which began this season, was never announced by the

commissioner's office or the players' union. Bob DuPuy, baseball's chief operating officer, referred to it Friday in a panel discussion during the annual meeting of the Associated Press Sports Editors.

"I think it's a good thing," New York Yankees pitcher Mike Mussina said later in the day. "It's still one of many things to be done."

The Food and Drug Administration based the ban of androstenedione as of April 12. Baseball's decision, confirmed by management lawyer Frank Connelly and union lawyer Michael Weiner, took effect the same day and means players who test positive for andro face penalties, including suspensions after two positive tests.

Connelly and Weiner said that, based on the FDA decision and a study conducted by Harvard in 1999 that was financed by baseball, the union and management concluded andro acted like an anabolic steroid and should be added to the sport's list of banned substances.

Andro is used by the body to

make testosterone. Congress is considering legislation that would designate andro and more than two dozen other steroid-like supplements as controlled substances — making them available by prescription only under certain conditions.

In survey tests for steroids last year, 5.7 percent of player samples were positive, triggering testing with penalties this year.

A first positive test would result in treatment, a second in a 15-day suspension or fine of up to \$10,000. The length of suspensions would increase to 25 days for a third positive test, 50 days for a fourth and one year for a fifth. These suspensions also would be without pay.

"I think it's a good move, but I thought it was already done," the New York Mets' Todd Zeile said. "I thought they had done it the year after Mark McGwire in 1998."

McGwire stopped taking andro the following year, saying he did not want kids to follow his lead.

"When they were making the big stink about McGwire, I didn't see what the big deal was," Baltimore player representative Jay Gibbons said. "You have to ban it now. Obviously, there's some concern if they took it off the shelves."

Also appearing on the panel

were Dr. Gary Wadler, a member of the World Anti-Doping Agency's medical research committee; former Pittsburgh Steeler Steve Courson, who has admitted using steroids; and Steve Holman, a former middle-distance runner who is an athletic ambassador for the U.S. Anti-Doping Agency.

Courson referred to the investigation of BALCO, the California lab at the center of the federal probe. Greg Anderson, trainer for San Francisco Giants slugger Barry Bonds, was among four men indicted by the grand jury. All have pleaded innocent, and Bonds has denied using illegal steroids.

Tim Montgomery, who testified before the grand jury, was one of several sprinters who received a letter Wednesday from USADA warning they could face punishment for alleged steroid use. Marion Jones, who won five medals in the Sydney Olympics, also is being investigated.

Jones and Montgomery have denied using prohibited drugs.

Courson said it's a myth that there are "only a few bad apples." BALCO shows us that. "I don't see the people under suspicion are some of the greatest athletes in the world," he said. Courson said that if Montgomery is banned for life, "there are probably 100 sprinters waiting in line who are using the same drugs."



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# Devil Rays get back to .500

## Brazelton flirts with no-hitter vs. Florida

The Associated Press

ST. PETERSBURG, Fla. — Dewon Brazelton savored the moment rather than look back.

A year ago Friday, the highly regarded Tampa Bay prospect was demoted from the majors all the way to Class A Bakersfield. On Friday, the young pitcher flirted with a no-hitter in a performance that suggests his career is back on track.

Brazelton held the Florida Marlins hitless until Mike Lowell doubled with two outs in the eighth inning Friday night and the surging Devil Rays beat the defending World Series champions 2-0 for their 12th straight interleague victory.

"What happened last year, happened last year," Brazelton, the third pick in the 2001 draft, said. "I really don't think about it anymore."

Brazelton went 1-6 with a 6.89 ERA in 10 starts before the Devil Rays pulled the plug on his rookie season last June. He spent the rest of the year in Bakersfield, where he worked on his mechanics and tried to regain his confidence.

Unable to make the starting rotation in spring training, he began this season at Triple-A Durham, where he enjoyed moderate success before being recalled this month to fill a spot in the Devil Rays' struggling rotation.

Six days after failing to make it through the three innings against Arizona despite being stalked by a 7-0 lead, Brazelton bounced back with the best performance of his career.

"I've been through a lot. But everybody in here has been through a lot," the 24-year-old right-hander said.

The victory was the 14th in six games for Tampa Bay, which improved to a major league best 25-7 since May 20 and — at 35-35 overall — joined the 1899 Louisville



Baltimore baserunner Brian Roberts tries to get back to second base ahead of the tag of Atlanta shortstop Rafael Furcal. Roberts failed.

Colonels as the only major league teams to reach .500 after being 18 games below at any point during a season.

The Devil Rays also are a major league-best 12-1 in interleague play, a starting turnaround from 2003 when they went 3-15 against NL opponents for the most losses by one team in a season.

Brazelton walked six, struck out five and hit a batter. Danys Baez got four outs for his 14th save in 16 opportunities, allowing a single to Hee Seop Choi in the ninth before finishing the combined two-hit.

**Rangers 3, Astros 1:** Kenny Rogers threw a three-hitter and the host Rangers spoiled Carlos Beltran's Houston debut, beating the Astros for their seventh straight victory. Rogers (10-2) retired 13 straight before Beltran hit a leadoff double in the seventh.

**Tigers 2, Diamondbacks 1:** Jason Johnson (5-7) allowed one hit in eight in-

nings and the host Tigers sent Arizona to its season-high seventh straight loss.

**Orioles 5, Braves 0:** Rookie Daniel Cabrera (4-3) pitched a four-hitter for his first major league shutout, and the visiting Braves lost their seventh in nine games.

**Cubs 7, White Sox 4:** Mark Grudzielanek hit his first homer, a three-run shot, and drove in his first runs of the season as the visiting Cubs beat the White Sox.

**Blue Jays 3, Expos 1:** Josh Towers (2-2) allowed six hits and a run in seven-plus innings and Reed Johnson had two RBIs for the host Blue Jays.

**Red Sox 12, Phillies 1 (8):** Manny Ramirez hit his AL-best 20th homer, drove in five runs and made an impressive diving catch in host Boston's rain-shortened win.

Pedro Martinez (8-3) allowed one run — Jim Thome's major league-leading 25th homer — on two hits in seven innings.

**Cardinals 5, Royals 2:** Scott Rolen had a homer and three-run double and Matt Morris (8-6) pitched eight innings for St. Louis.

**Twins 6, Brewers 3:** Johan Santana (6-4) struck out 10 to win his fourth straight start and Cristian Guzman homered and scored four runs in homestanding Minnesota's third consecutive victory.

**Padres 3, Mariners 2:** Brian Lawrence (9-5) earned his ninth win, Phil Nevin hit a two-run single and visiting San Diego held off Seattle when pinch-runner Hiram Bocachica was caught making a wide turn off third for the final out.

**Angels 13, Dodgers 0:** Darin Erstad hit his first homer and drove in four runs, Jarrod Washburn and Derrick Turnbow combined on a four-hitter as the visiting Angels handed Los Angeles its fifth straight loss.

**Reds 6, Pirates 4:** Pinch-hitter Wily Mo Pena capped a six-run seventh with a grand slam, lifting the host Reds.

# Schmidt bests Zito in battle of West Coast aces

BY JANIE MCCAULEY

The Associated Press

OAKLAND, Calif. — Jason Schmidt admitted to overthrowing his pitches and being lazy, which would be somewhat understandable considering he already had a five-run lead when he took the mound.

Still, Schmidt pitched into the ninth inning to win his career-best 10th consecutive start, leading the San Francisco Giants to their seventh straight victory, 6-4 over the Oakland Athletics on Friday night.

Schmidt (10-2), coming off a one-day gem against Boston last Sunday, didn't look as sharp this outing. He hasn't lost since drop-

ping his first two starts of the season and is tied for the major league lead in victories. His 10 straight are the most by a Giants pitcher since Vida Blue won 10 in a row in 1978.

He allowed four runs and five hits, struck out four and walked three in 9 1/3 innings before a sell-out crowd of 48,189.

"It wasn't really a struggle," Schmidt said. "When you get a big lead like that, you don't want to say you have it in the bag, but you get on cruise control. You make pitches you usually wouldn't make."

Scott Eyre came in after Schmidt and allowed Scott Hatteberg's two-run homer in the ninth

and a double to Erubiel Durazo. The Giants then brought in Matt Herges, who gave up a single to Bobby Crosby before getting Damian Miller to ground into a game-ending double play for his 20th save.

The Giants have won 11 of 12 overall to regain the lead in the NL West.

Schmidt was stalked to an early lead on back-to-back homers by David Cruz and Pedro Feliz in the first Cruz hit a three-run homer and Feliz followed with a solo shot. All five Giants runs were unearned after a fielding mistake by the A's.

Oakland missed a potential double play when starter Barry Zito (4-5) threw to second baseman

Marco Scutaro trying to get Ray Durham on a slow roller by Marquis Grissom. Scutaro was standing several feet behind the bag, apparently thinking Crosby, the shortstop, would make the play. Crosby was charged with an error on the play.

"I thought it was going to get by him (Zito), so I took a step in and hesitated for one second and no one was there," Crosby said. "It was definitely my fault. I should have been at second."

Zito then walked Barry Bonds to load the bases.

Edgaro Alfonzo hit a sacrifice fly, Cruz connected on a 1-0 pitch for his first homer and Feliz then homered off the top of the scoreboard in left, his 13th of the year.

Zito didn't blame Crosby for the miscommunication.

"As a pitcher, you're taught to just throw to second and assume someone's going to be on the base," Zito said. "Bobby had the bag, but for some reason wasn't there. I've got to make the adjustment and throw to first."

Zito allowed one earned run — on Michael Tucker's sacrifice fly in the fifth — but Oakland's offense couldn't do much against Schmidt.

Schmidt didn't allow a baserunner past first until Miller's sixth-inning double. Crosby hit a two-run homer for the A's in the seventh, his 10th this season.

Zito hasn't won since a 10-6 victory against Cincinnati on June 8, a span of three starts.

He already is.

# SPORTS



Capitals select Russian  
Ovechkin No. 1 in draft,  
Page 24

## No A-Rod? No problem

### Young making sure Rangers don't have shortfall at shortstop

BY STEPHEN HAWKINS  
The Associated Press

**T**he bucket of fan mail in the Texas shortstop's locker overflows with baseball cards and other memorabilia awaiting his signature.

No, it's not leftovers from Alex Rodriguez.

Michael Young has replaced the departed AL MVP as the fan favorite in Texas. More importantly for the surprising Rangers, he has made sure A-Rod hasn't been missed on the field.

Young switched to shortstop and is still one of the league's top hitters. He's also taken on an expanded leadership role for a team that isn't on the bottom in the AL West anymore.

"He's really grown as a team leader," first baseman Mark Teixeira said. "He speaks out when he has to. But the best leader is someone who leads by example. The best example he sets is when he's on the field."

Through the first 69 games, Young played all but four innings and was hitting .331 (fifth in the AL) with a league-best 34 multi-hit games from the leadoff spot. He had 10 homers and 45 RBIs, one more than Rodriguez had batting third in the New York Yankees' lineup. A-Rod hit .292 with 18 homers his first 69 games.

"He's having the same kind of year he had last year. He played Gold Glove second base and his production keeps going up," said Rodriguez, who doesn't believe his departure is the reason for the attention on Young. "It's the fact that they're winning," he said. "That brings more focus and attention to what you're doing."

Young refuses to call himself A-Rod's replacement. They were



Through the first 69 games of the season, Texas Rangers' Michael Young, above, had a higher batting average (.331) than Alex Rodriguez (.292), who Young replaced at shortstop when Rodriguez left the Rangers to sign with the New York Yankees during the offseason.

teammates and remain good friends, talking two or three times a week.

"I go out and try and play hard and do the things I know I can do well," Young said. "That's an added benefit of playing on a good team. I'm not really focused on what I'm doing."

When Rodriguez got his wish to

be traded just two weeks before spring training, plenty of questions were raised for the Rangers:

■ Who would play shortstop?  
■ What to do with two top-notch second basemen? Young had established himself as one of the league's best playing beside Rodriguez, and Texas got two-time All-Star Alfonso Soriano

from New York in the deal.

■ How would the Rangers respond after losing one of the game's best players, the one just tabbed the second captain in franchise history?

A day before the first full-squad workout at spring training, Young answered the first two questions. He went unsolicited

into manager Buck Showalter's office and said he'd play shortstop.

"That avoided a big stink for everybody. By doing so, he took a load off of a lot of people, but put a load on his back," outfielder Rusty Greer said. "I think his shoulders are wide enough to carry that load."

SEE YOUNG ON PAGE 31

**Jeff Gordon takes rough ride to second straight Nextel pole**

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**Second washout forces Wimbledon to schedule matches on middle Sunday for only third time in 127 years**

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**Rockies' Walker shows no lingering effects from groin injury with three homers against Indians**

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**Judge sets Aug. 27 start date for Bryant's sexual assault trial** Page 26